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TORONTO • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009 metronews.ca

SAVE MONEY!
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Ontarians won't toast new tax

ALCOHOL Consumers may end up paying more for privately sold used cars but won't see a drop in alcohol prices when Ontario harmonizes its sales tax with the federal GST next year, Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said yesterday.

Alcohol taxes should have been lowered under the new tax regime unveiled in last Thursday's budget, but the province will add new fees to keep shelf prices the same in a bid to protect booze revenue and promote socially responsible drinking.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sunny Side pg 4

Woman's new career a piece of cake

Canada pg 9

Are you ready for the worm?

ShareYourViews
torontoletters@metronews.ca

Jobless **The lighter side**

SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hannah Han, an unemployed media producer, celebrates her score in the phone toss game yesterday during the Unemployment Olympics in New York. The lighthearted competition included such games as Pin the Blame on the Boss and Office Telephone Toss.

School of hard knocks

Post-secondary institutions trying to find new revenues

Ontario's Ivory Tower is scrambling to find ways to ride out the recession, from charging full-time fees to part-time students, to phasing out small but pricey fields of study.

The University of Toronto is considering the unusual step of charging arts and science students full-time fees even if they take as few as three courses — a move that could generate $10 million but already has students howling.

The University of Guelph has drawn fire over a plan to scrap eight "majors" (fields of study) that drew fewer than 40 students over four years.

The move will save about $9 million in administrative costs and has already sparked at least one Facebook protest site.

Major cost

• Serge Desmarais, Guelph's assistant vice-president academic, said it costs about $100,000 in administration to offer a major, from faculty advisers who track students' programs to offering a set range of courses.

At the U of T, one student leader called the new flat rate a "stealth tuition hike" and said students are banding together to fight it. Colum Grove-White, president of the Arts and Science Students' Union, questioned any jump in tuition during a recession, noting many students work while studying.

"It disadvantages these students the most. They are the most vulnerable during an economic recession," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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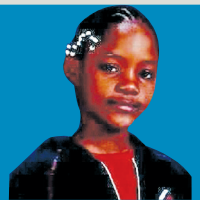
Teenager dead after early morning crash
A 17-year-old teenager is dead after an early morning crash on Highway 403 in Mississauga. Provincial police say the teenager's SUV went airborne after leaving the road and smashed into an overpass support. The crash happened at around 1:30 a.m. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local



Missing 11-year-old girl found

An 11-year-old girl from north-end Toronto has been found unharmed after being missing since about 5 p.m. Monday. Trudy-Ann Morgan, left, who is also known as Tiffany or Tina, has been taken to a hospital to be checked out as a precaution. The girl was last seen at Steeles and Bayview avenues after she reportedly ran away from home. Police say the girl tried to hitch a ride to Niagara Falls, but the driver refused and called police. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Music

Canadian songstress Diana Krall tries to make some noise with her latest release Quiet Nights.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Auditor General Sheila Fraser blasts airport security clearance given to people with criminal records at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Style columnist Kenya Hunt previews Gwyneth Paltrow's new line and Hollywood Rants sticks up for Slumdog's Danny Boyle

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 5 6 0; **Ontario Pick 4** : 0 8 4 4
Encore: 7374717
Daily Keno: 1, 6, 8, 13, 18, 20, 22, 23, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 45, 49, 55, 58, 68, 70.
These results are not official.

News in brief

COURTS A 62-year-old man accused of helping his son terrorize Toronto's Junction neighbourhood, shaking an imitation skull at an elderly woman and leaving dead animals on her property was granted bail yesterday
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sunshine list unveiled

Public sector workers making more than $100K goes up

More than 53,500 Ontario public sector workers were paid over $100,000 last year, an increase of 11,000, or 23 per cent, over 2007.

Ontario Power Generation CEO Jim Hankinson topped the so-called sunshine list for 2008 at $2,485,000.

The top earner from 2007, Michael Nobrega, CEO of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System, was second at $1.9 million.

Five other executives at OMERS were paid between $705,000 and $839,000 last year.

Other top earners in 2008 included Ontario Power Generation vice-president Pierre Charlebois at $1.4 million and Hydro One CEO Laura Formusa at $926,000.

More than a dozen other executives at the provincial utilities were paid between $500,000 and $900,000.

Jim Hankinson

Stephen Herbert, CEO of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto, was the top earner in the health-care sector at $627,000 in salary and benefits, followed by six other executives at the same facility.

Premier Dalton McGuinty defended the big increase in the sunshine list, which is released by the Finance Ministry each year.

"I think it's only natural that the sunshine list does keep growing given what happens to salaries and inflation and the like," McGuinty said yesterday before the list was made public.

"If we take a look at (Ontario Public Service) workers, those that have made it on the list this year have done so as a result of about a one per cent increase in their pay."

McGuinty acknowledged the public has a right to know how much public servants are paid, especially when it's more than what most people earn and at a time when auto workers are being pressed for salary cuts.

"For most Ontario families, $100,000 is a lot of money," he said.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teachers easily pass strike vote

An "overwhelming majority" of Toronto's high school teachers voted in favour of a strike vote, a result they hope puts pressure on the board as contract negotiations progress.

More than 80 per cent of teachers voted in favour of giving their negotiating team a strike mandate as the union presses the TDSB to drop its demand they do more supervision time. There are no plans for a strike at this time.

"This is legitimate vote, this does mean everything, up to and including a full strike, but that's not what we are aiming for."
Doug Jolliffe

Teachers voted in their schools all day by secret ballot, says Doug Jolliffe, head of District 12 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation.

"This is legitimate vote, this does mean everything, up to and including a full strike, but that's not what we are aiming for," he said. "What we are trying to do now is get a message to the board."

Last week, board Chair John Campbell made a direct appeal to the high school teachers by writing a letter, distributed to their mailboxes, with details of the contract offer, including the 12.55 per cent salary increase over the next four years — for an average of $80,000 — more teaching jobs and smaller classes for at-risk students. The board is asking them to do more supervision time, although they would still have the lowest rate in the province.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Downtown **Sunny skies**

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The skyline of Toronto finally shines blue as pedestrians come and go on Front Street looking east to downtown yesterday.

Another death in fire revealed

APARTMENT Another woman has died from injuries suffered in a Toronto apartment fire that killed a pregnant woman and her four-year-old son last week.

Natalie Burgher died of complications from smoke inhalation last Wednesday — the day after the fatal blaze.

Burgher, who was 25, had a one-year-old son.

It is not clear why her death was not disclosed until now.

A fourth person found in the ninth-floor apartment of the west-end highrise remains in hospital.

Investigators still aren't sure what started the fire, or why the four occupants in the apartment were all asleep in a back room at 6 p.m.

The fire is believed to have started in the living room couch and quickly spread.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sick Labrador improving

DOGS The condition of a four-month-old Labrador retriever is improving after it ingested a white powder scattered over a trail in Oakville, Ont., Halton regional police said yesterday.

Yesterday's incident comes just a week after three dogs were sickened by tainted cupcakes left in a park in Port Perry, north of Oshawa. It's still not known what substance was used in the cupcakes.

Forensic tests have ruled out antifreeze as the toxin. Further tests will be done, but police say these may take several months to complete.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

'Bathtub Girl' denied bid for early release from prison

A 21-year-old Mississauga woman, convicted of murdering her mother with her older sister, now 22, and were dubbed the Bathtub Girls, was denied her bid for early release from prison for a second time yesterday by Justice Bruce Duncan. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Baker's sweet success

Customized cakes a new career path for Toronto artist

SunnySide

Her creations are as varied as a Scrabble board, a Louis Vuitton purse, a BlackBerry and baby booties.

But unlike most artists, Juanita Koo knows her works won't have much longevity once she's added her finishing touches.

That comes with the territory when your creations are designed as a feast for the eyes, as well as the stomach.

Koo's diverse works aren't etched on canvas or sculpted in clay, but constructed on a far more delicate — yet delicious — foundation.

It's cake — and lots of it.

But what distinguishes the creations are the intricate pieces Koo crafts as toppers or that are woven into the design, whether they are towering tiered cakes or smaller-scale cupcakes.

"I practise a lot and it just comes to me," Koo, 35, said in a recent interview at her Toronto home where she was putting the finishing touches on a 60th birthday cake of a woman on a motorcycle modelled after one owned by a client.

"Maybe I played with playdough a lot when I was a kid, I have no idea, but ... I like making little tiny items. It's just fun."

And while it's a labour of love, the cakes are also labour-intensive. Not including the actual baking process, it can take five hours to construct one cake — sometimes double.

She thought at times about how much she would love to make cakes full time, and even recalled joking with a boss a couple of years ago about leaving the corporate world.

Koo's musings came to pass — but not on her terms after she was laid off in November.

She has decided to go full steam ahead with her business, Sweet Things, devoting about 25 hours each week to making cakes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Working out of her Toronto home, Juanita Koo puts the finishing touches on a customized motorcycle cake. Koo, who lost her job due to the tough economic times, is doing good business building elaborate customized cakes for special occasions like weddings and birthdays.

McGuinty supports loan to automakers

Ottawa and Ontario were right to hand struggling automakers a $4-billion loan because the companies have made some progress, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday, while he urged the union and other stakeholders to find more savings.

"We believe that there are the makings here of a success," McGuinty said.

"The parties have to go back, they have to do more work ... to get costs down."

Both the U.S. and Canadian governments said Monday that GM and Chrysler's restructuring plans weren't thorough enough and demanded radical changes, while Ontario and Ottawa said GM will need to get further concessions from the CAW.

GM contract

- General Motors CEO Fritz Henderson said yesterday a new labour contract with the Canadian Auto Workers is competitive and he hasn't yet decided whether he'll ask the union to reopen negotiations.

McGuinty said parts suppliers, retirees and auto dealers also have to work to get their costs even lower, and he urged the CAW to reconsider its stance.

The Canadian Auto Workers have flatly rejected a demand for more labour concessions, with president Ken Lewenza saying the union has already done its part.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 14

News in brief

POLITICS The race to replace John Tory as leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservatives will expand to three candidates tomorrow when Tim Hudak formally announces his campaign, The Canadian Press has learned. Frank Klees and Randy Hillier have already announced their intentions to try to succeed Tory as the party leader. The 41-year-old Hudak, currently the party's finance critic, will have about 12 of the 24 Conservative caucus members on hand to show their support when he launches his campaign.

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Woman attacked at Museum subway station

A 57-year-old woman is in hospital with serious head injuries after a seemingly random attack by a complete stranger in Museum subway station yesterday. The woman was on the platform when she was struck on the head shortly after 1 p.m. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Grads offered $20K to go west

Saskatchewan's premier is leading a contingent of politicians visiting Ontario in an attempt to woo recent grads to the Prairie province.

Premier Brad Wall is targeting university and college graduates, offering up to $20,000 in tuition rebates to move to Saskatchewan.

Advanced Education Minister Rob Norris says the government wants to show it's serious about recruiting workers because the province has more than 6,200 unfilled jobs.

Wall attended a business community luncheon yesterday and will visit a job fair today.

It's the second time in six months that politicians from Saskatchewan have brought their pitch to southern Ontario.

In September, Wall targeted workers in Ontario's battered manufacturing sector.

Saskatchewan has managed to escape the worst effects of the recession and is among the few provinces expected to see growth this year.

Wall is offering graduates up to $20,000 if they move to his province and stay for at least seven years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GEOFF HOWE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall is offering Ontario university and college graduates $20,000 in tuition rebates to move to the province and stay at least seven years.

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Rogers names a new boss

BUSINESS Longtime wireless industry executive Nadir Mohamed will have his work cut out for him as he steps into the CEO's role at Rogers Communications Inc. as it grapples with a weak economy, new competitors and the loss of the company's legendary founder.

Nadir Mohamed

Analysts say Mohamed, who shifted into the position immediately after the company made it official earlier this week, brings with him years of experience that will help Rogers face heightened competition in the wireless industry as new competitors enter the market.

Mohamed, 52, had been widely considered a frontrunner as CEO to replace company founder Ted Rogers, who died in December.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Electronic waste sites opened

GARBAGE A new network of collection sites for electronic waste was launched across Ontario yesterday in a bid to divert 160,000 tonnes of garbage over five years.

But consumers may not like the impact on prices, and not all residents will get the same access to recycling services. Starting today, companies that sell electronic products will pay a stewardship fee to have their goods recycled or reused.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TRANSIT Premier Dalton McGuinty is defending a move to boot mayors and other politicians off the board of a merged Metrolinx. He says while mayors have provided good ideas so far, they've done as much as they can and it's now time to get the private-sector on board.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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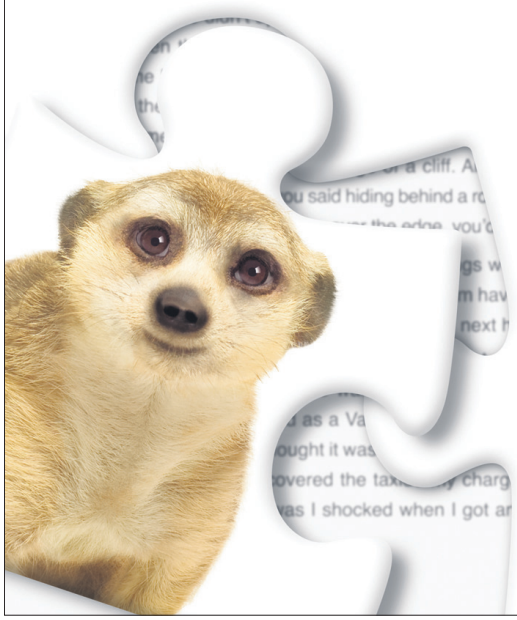

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455 Danforth Ave.
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26 - 55 Mountainash Rd.
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

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Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
6535B Mississauga Rd.
2458 Dundas St. W
G16 - 3024 Hurontario St.
1A - 1370 Dundas St. E
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.
101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.

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RioCan Burloak
299 Lakeshore Rd. E
18 - 2501 Third Line
D3 - 2335 Trafalgar Rd.
760 Pacific Rd.

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Markham
Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

Richmond Hill
Hillcrest Shopping Centre
4 - 11005 Yonge St.
9301 Bathurst St.

Thornhill
Promenade Mall
7171 Yonge St.
8117 Yonge St.

Vaughan
Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
3 - 4000 Hwy. 7

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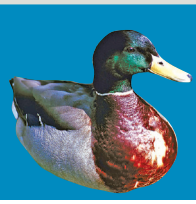
U.S. storm won't increase flood risk: Official

Officials say a snowstorm that has hit North Dakota will not increase the risk of major flooding in Manitoba. Steve Topping, with Manitoba's Water Stewardship Department, says by the time the snow melts into the Red River, the river's crest will be well north. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Waterfowl deaths underestimated

Syncrude Canada says three times as many waterfowl died on its tailings pond last spring than the 500 originally thought. It says many birds returned in the weeks that followed the initial deaths and the total counted by staff as part of a government investigation was 1,606. Syncrude faces charges under provincial and federal laws and faces a maximum total fine of $800,000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hit man cops to 27 killings

COURT A Quebec hit man whose victims included bikers, Mafiosi and innocent bystanders pleaded guilty yesterday to 27 charges of first-degree murder in a case the Crown said could go down in history.

Gerald Gallant, a police informant who was already serving a life sentence for a 2001 slaying, also pleaded guilty to 12 charges of attempted murder and a handful of other charges.

The killings took place between 1978 and 2003 and involved outlaw bikers, street-gang members and mobsters.

But some of Gallant's victims had nothing to do with crime, including Helene Brunet, a waitress who was wounded in 2000 while being used as a human shield by Robert Savard, a close associate of Hells Angels kingpin Maurice (Mom) Boucher.

And in 1999, Gallant fatally shot Luc Bergeron, a private detective who happened to be living in an apartment formerly occupied by his intended target, a Hells Angels associate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rackets by the runway

Auditor general says some airport workers connected to organized crime

Suspicious characters, some with links to organized crime, are working in secure areas at airports because of poor co-operation between Transport Canada and the RCMP, says the auditor general.

Transport Minister John Baird was quick to pledge improved information sharing with the Mounties.

In her latest report, Sheila Fraser cites one case of an individual who held a security pass despite weapons and assault convictions — and who was under investigation for a drug-related murder at a large airport.

Fraser said part of the problem may be fallout from the Maher Arar inquiry, which chastised the Mounties for sharing information, some of it questionable, with American authorities.

"The memorandum of understanding between the RCMP and Transport Canada regarding information sharing was terminated by the RCMP on Dec. 31, 2007, as it no longer complied with ministerial directions or with the recommendations of the (Arar commission)," she said.

The Mounties are also leery of sharing information with Transport Canada because some third parties — other police forces, for example — don't allow their information to be passed on and because the RCMP worries that Transport Canada might disclose police intelligence details to people denied proper clearance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Auditor general Sheila Fraser leaves after releasing the 2009 Status Report in Ottawa yesterday, which included two audits by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development Scott Vaughan.

Report highlights

- Communication breakdowns between RCMP and Transport Canada means high-risk individuals with criminal records can infiltrate secure areas of airports.
- Canada Revenue Agency lax about chasing down small-business tax cheats in underground economy.
- Cabinet too slow to appoint members to Immigration and Refugee Board, creates burgeoning backlog of cases and pressure on social welfare programs.
- Too many gaps in drinking-water inspections at some passenger airlines.

I'm a Tory until I die, Mulroney says

POLITICS The federal Conservatives say Brian Mulroney is no longer a party member — but the former prime minister begs to differ.

Mulroney

A party source said yesterday that Mulroney is not a member and directed further questions to the Prime Minister's Office.

Mulroney issued a statement a short time later saying he is a member — and will remain one until the day he dies.

Mulroney is at the centre of a public inquiry into controversial business transactions between himself and arms-lobbyist Karlheinz Schreiber.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper once referred to Mulroney as a mentor, and consulted with him. But since the Schreiber affair resurfaced, the Harper government has taken efforts to distance itself from Mulroney.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TORTURE Canada's spy agency says it will use information extracted through torture when lives are at stake. A lawyer for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service says the spy agency will do so when it can prevent a catastrophic terrorist attack.

COURT Accused terrorist Hassan Diab has been granted bail. A judge ruled yesterday that Diab be released while he awaits a hearing on whether he should be extradited to France to face charges in a 1980 synagogue bombing.

LAW ENFORCEMENT Conservation officers have seized two snowmobiles and a number of sleighs belonging to Quebec Innu who have been hunting a threatened herd of caribou in Labrador. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sole survivor of chopper crash leaves hospital

Robert Decker, the sole survivor of a helicopter crash that killed 17 people off Newfoundland earlier this month, left hospital and returned home yesterday. The 27-year-old suffered lung injuries and multiple fractures after the chopper went down March 12 in the North Atlantic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

April Fool's worm?

Conficker computer virus could wreak havoc

A wily Internet "worm" that threatened to make April Fool's Day a nightmare for the computer world made some early strikes, but it still wasn't clear late yesterday whether the story of Conficker would be more about fear than fact.

The Conficker worm is a piece of malicious code that infects computers, then awaits instructions to delete files, send millions of pieces of spam, steal credit card numbers or other valuable data, or bombard servers and grind them to a halt.

Experts said while Conficker — expected to unleash itself today — had the potential to wreak havoc, precisely how much of its impact would be noticeable remained a matter of conjecture and debate.

"It's the biggest worm we've had in our history," said Brian O'Higgins, a computer security veteran based in Ottawa.

"It's under someone's command and control; we don't know who basically owns and who controls it."

It's estimated that as many as 10 million machines around the world were already infected.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tips to protect your PC

- The Conficker computer worm is expected to begin ramping up its nefarious activities today. Some ways to protect your PC (Mac computers are not vulnerable):
- Ensure copies of Windows operating system are legitimate.
- Ensure anti-virus software is installed and up-to-date.
- Ensure all Microsoft-supplied security patches are installed and up-to-date.
- Use anti-virus software to deep-scan entire computer.
- Get free Conficker removal programs at www.conficker-workinggroup.org.

Peterborough **Red Cross protest**

CLIFFORD SKARSTEDT JR./THE CANADIAN PRESS

Striking Red Cross workers Rita Traboulsee, right, and Santina Molocato-Lazzaro, middle, rally yesterday in downtown Peterborough. The workers were protesting the province's proposed cuts to gas mileage costs.

Canada expresses outrage over Afghan women's law

Canadian officials contacted the Afghan government yesterday to express concern about controversial new legislation that would reportedly allow men to rape their wives.

The Canadian government reacted with outrage following reports the Karzai administration has approved a wide-ranging family law for the country's Shia minority.

Various reports say the legislation would make it illegal for Shia women to refuse their husbands sex, leave the house without their permission, or have custody of children.

Canadian officials contacted the office of President Hamid Karzai, and Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon spoke to two Afghan cabinet ministers yesterday seeking clarification.

Late yesterday, Canadian officials said they had learned the law was not yet in effect, but they remained "very concerned."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DEAL The Canadian government used an international conference to announce that it has brokered a deal to bolster the anarchic Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said yesterday the two countries had agreed to timelines and objectives for bringing order to their lawless frontier.

BILLS The number of Canadians missing monthly bill payments has jumped to its highest level in more than a decade as unemployment rates rise and the recession deepens, a report shows. The average national consumer delinquency rate increased by 7.3 per cent in February compared with the same time last year, the Equifax Consulting Solutions survey released yesterday suggests.

POLL Canadians support U.S. President Barack Obama's super exposure on television networks, and a new poll also suggests they'd like to see more from Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey found 83 per cent of respondents liked Obama's media strategy, while 62 per cent of Canadians would like Harper to take Obama's lead and do more one-on-one interviews. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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10 **Cigarette maker's appeal goes up in smoke**
The U.S. Supreme Court has dismissed cigarette maker Philip Morris's appeal of a $79.5-million US award to a smoker's widow, likely ending the 10-year legal fight. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

JOEL RYAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Final preparations are made yesterday to the wax model of U.S President Barack Obama, which stands next to the wax creation of Queen Elizabeth at Madame Tussauds in London.

Little hope of magic bullet at G20 summit

Desperate but divided on ways to lift their countries from economic misery, world leaders converged for an emergency summit yesterday holding scant hopes of finding a magic-bullet solution for the crisis that brought them hurrying to London.

Even as the leaders — including Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama — were arriving, the United States acknowledged its allies would not go along with a massive burst of stimulus spending, while Europe was forced to backpedal from hopes for tighter financial regulation.

Instead, leaders are trumpeting the limited common ground they could reach, including more money for the International Monetary Fund and closer scrutiny of hedge funds and tax havens. As for the broader issues, they're hoping for the best, or at least that they will do no harm.

20 The number of countries coming together in London, with fast-growing economies such as China, India, Brazil and Saudi Arabia — important players in any effort to co-ordinate economic policy — sitting as full negotiating partners.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Towers keep eye on Canada, U.S. border

VIDEO The U.S. Border Patrol is erecting 16 more video surveillance towers in Michigan and New York to help secure parts of the U.S.-Canadian border, awarding the contract to a company criticized for faulty technology with its so-called "virtual fence" along the U.S.-Mexico boundary. The government awarded the $20-million US project to Boeing Co., for the towers designed to assist agents stationed along the 6,400-kilometre northern stretch.

Eleven of the towers are being installed in Detroit and five in Buffalo to help monitor water traffic between Canada and the United States along Lake St. Clair and the Niagara River. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Netanyahu talks of peace, but silent on state solution

WORDS Benjamin Netanyahu, taking office as Israel's new leader yesterday, promised to seek "full peace" with the Arab and Muslim world, but refused to utter the words the world was waiting to hear: "Palestinian state."

Netanyahu

The well-spoken, U.S.-educated hawk took pains to portray himself as a pragmatist, telling parliament that Israel does not want to rule the Palestinians.

"Under the permanent status agreement, the Palestinians will have all the authority to rule themselves," Netanyahu said in comments that appeared to hark back to a decades-old notion that peace could be achieved through limited Palestinian autonomy.

His refusal to embrace the idea of Palestinian statehood puts him at odds with the U.S. administration and much of the rest of the world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

LIBYA Hundreds were feared dead yesterday in the chilly waters of the Mediterranean Sea, days after an overcrowded wooden fishing boat packed with migrants heading for Europe capsized in stormy waters off Libya Friday. Authorities pulled 21 bodies from the waters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Terrorist warns of Washington attack

The commander of the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility yesterday for a deadly assault on a Pakistani police academy and said the group was planning a terrorist attack on the White House that would "amaze" the world.

Baitullah Mehsud, who has a $5 million US bounty on his head, said Monday's attack on the outskirts of the eastern city of Lahore was retaliation for U.S. missile strikes against militants along the Afghan border.

"Soon we will launch an attack in Washington that will amaze everyone in the world," Mehsud told The Associated Press by phone. He provided no details.

In later comments, Mehsud directly identified the White House as one of the targets.

Mehsud has never been directly linked to any attacks outside Pakistan, but attacks blamed on his network of fighters have widened in scope and ambition in recent years.

"Soon we will launch an attack in Washington that will amaze everyone in the world."
Baitullah Mehsud, commander of the Pakistani Taliban

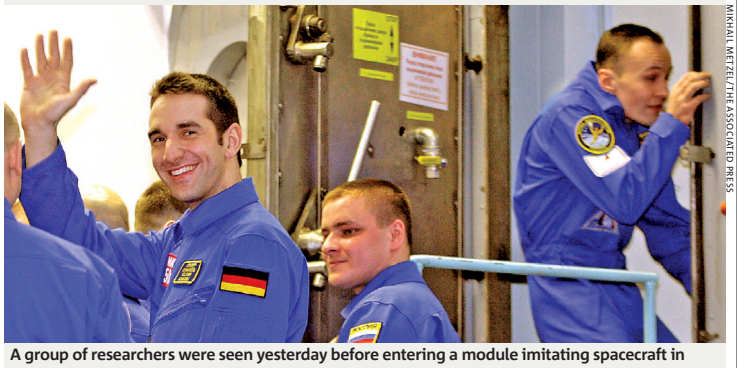
The threat comes days after U.S. President Barack Obama warned that al-Qaida is actively planning attacks on the United States from secret havens in Pakistan.

Pakistan's former government and the CIA named Mehsud as the prime suspect behind the December 2007 killing of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Pakistani officials also accuse him of harbouring foreign fighters, including Central Asians linked to al-Qaida, and of training suicide bombers.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Gordon Duguid said he had not seen any reports of Mehsud's comments but that he would "take the threat under consideration."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Have fun! Windowless isolation for crew



MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A group of researchers were seen yesterday before entering a module imitating spacecraft in Moscow, Russia. The team will spend 105 days in windowless isolation, which is intended to simulate stress and fatigue on a flight to Mars.

Obama fervour still alive: Poll

POLL Americans are still giving President Barack Obama high marks even in the midst of a devastating recession that is showing scant signs of easing.

A new Washington Post/ABC News poll suggests Obama's post-inauguration honeymoon period is still alive as he enjoys a 66 per cent approval rating, up a few points from other recent public opinion surveys.

He has rarely slipped below 60 per cent in any poll since his inauguration, a remarkably high number given he's dealing with the worst economic meltdown since the Great Depression that has seen millions of Americans lose their jobs.

The Post/ABC survey was conducted late last week – from Thursday to Sunday – after Obama finished up a full-fledged media blitz aimed at assuring Americans that there was hope on the horizon.

66 Per cent approval rating, which U.S. President Barack Obama received in a new Washington Post/ABC News poll.

It's the type of media presence Canadians would like to see from their own prime minister, a Canadian Press/Harris-Decima poll suggests.

The poll shows that 62 per cent of Canadians would like to see Prime Minister Steven Harper do more one-on-one interviews at home.

Harper has limited his national television appearances, focusing recently on giving interviews to American media outlets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chechen shot dead in Dubai

DUBAI Authorities confirmed yesterday a bitter foe of Chechnya's Moscow-backed leader was fatally shot in an attack in the Persian Gulf emirate of Dubai.

The killing of Sulim Yamadayev, a former rebel who switched sides in Chechnya's long-running conflict with Russia and became a decorated war veteran, was the latest in a series of brazen assassinations targeting Chechen renegades in and outside of Russia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

SWAZILAND Madagascar's neighbours have suspended the impoverished nation from their regional development and democracy club, and threatened to take further steps if the Indian Ocean island's ousted president is not restored to power.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CUBA 85 ¢/min

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Sun-Times owner files for bankruptcy

The Sun-Times Media Group, formerly controlled by Conrad Black's Hollinger empire, says it has filed for bankruptcy. That makes the owner of the Chicago Sun-Times the fifth newspaper publisher in recent months to seek protection from creditors. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OECD economist praises policies

ECONOMY Global leaders have steered the world away from a 1930s-style Great Depression, a top international economist said. But Klaus Schmidt-Hebbel, chief economist for the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, predicted the economies of the OECD countries will shrink by 4.3 per cent this year, and 0.1 per cent next year.

When it comes to spending, Germany and Canada could afford more stimulus — and the Bank of Canada should consider raising the money supply further to provide more credit in the economy, the OECD says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. to seek seat on rights council

UN The State Department says the U.S. will seek election to the UN Human Rights Council. Former president George W. Bush's administration boycotted the council over its repeated criticism of Israel and failure to comment on flagrant rights abuses elsewhere. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Killing fields trial starts

The man who ran the Khmer Rouge's most notorious prison accepted responsibility yesterday for torturing and executing thousands of inmates and expressed "heartfelt sorrow" for his crimes.

Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, told the United Nations-backed genocide tribunal that he wanted to apologize for the acts of the Khmer Rouge, whose genocidal rule of Cambodia from 1975-79 left an estimated 1.7 million people dead.

"I recognize that I am responsible for the crimes committed," Duch told the tribunal. "I would like to express my regretfulness and heartfelt sorrow."

Duch, now 66, commanded the group's main S-21 prison, also known as Tuol Sleng, where as many as 16,000 men, women and children are believed to have been brutalized before being sent to their deaths. He is charged with committing crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as torture and homicide, and could face a maximum penalty of life in prison. Cambodia has no death penalty.

The trial began Monday with a full reading of the 45-page indictment. Executioners threw victims to their deaths, bludgeoned them and then slit their bellies, or had medics draw so much blood that their lives drained away, according to the indictment.

Duch's job was to extract confessions of counterrevolutionary activity. Prisoners were beaten, electrocuted, smothered with plastic bags or had water poured into their noses. Children were taken from their parents and dropped from the third floor. Duch was discovered in 1999 by British journalist Nic Dunlop in the Cambodian countryside, where he had been living under an assumed name. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HENG SINITH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cambodian Meo Soknen, 13, stands inside a small shrine full of human bones and skulls yesterday, all victims of the Khmer Rouge, near her home in the Kandal Steung district of Kandal province, Cambodia. Inset: Former Khmer Rouge prison commander Kaing Guek Eav.

Eiffel gets towering makeover

PARIS Spring has arrived and it's time for a makeover of France's most famous landmark, the Eiffel Tower. Once every seven years, every crevice, nut, bolt and beam is repainted by hand.

The project costs a total of 4 million euros, or $6.68 million US.

This year, the 25-member painting crew comes from Greece and Romania, and the paint from Norway — leaving the tower's maintenance overseers defensive and on edge.

"We didn't investigate the nationalities of the people who are working here, nor did we discriminate," Jean-Bernard Bros, president of SETE, the company that runs the Eiffel Tower, said at a news conference. " These are working people. They're paid for their work." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British hand off to U.S. in Iraq's oil-rich south

MISSION Britain turned over coalition command of Iraq's oil-rich south to the United States yesterday in the first step toward withdrawing virtually all British troops by July.

The ceremony marked the beginning of the end of an often-troubled British mission. The Iraqis have accused the British of standing by while Shiite militias wielded control of Basra for years.

However, U.S. and Iraqi commanders had nothing but praise yesterday for Britain's role as the second-largest contributor of troops since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

"The accomplishments of the British forces across Iraq, and especially here in Basra, have been nothing short of brilliant," Gen. Ray Odierno, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, said during the ceremony.

The British troops will be withdrawn in phases, with combat operations to finish at the end of May and all but about 400 troops withdrawn by the end of July. Those staying behind will focus mainly on training the Iraqi navy to defend oil platforms stationed off the coast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Troops

- At the height of combat operations in 2003, Britain had 46,000 troops in Iraq.
- The British military has suffered 179 deaths since the war started.

News in brief

CHIMP A Connecticut woman nearly killed by a chimpanzee is speaking, asking for her daughter and even responding to fairly complicated commands, Charla Nash's brothers, Stephen and Michael Nash, said yesterday.

OCTUPLETS Fifteen hospital workers have been fired for looking at medical records of octuplet mother Nadya Suleman without permission. Another eight were disciplined for accessing the files at the hospital in Bellflower, Calif., where Suleman gave birth to the octuplets on Jan. 26. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Heroes of free speech

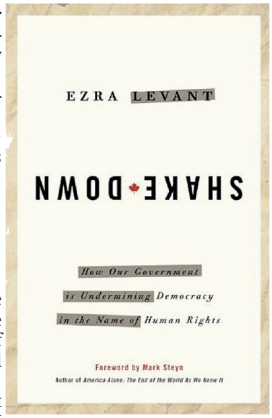
TheWestView

When the right wing gets together, there's usually enough room left in the phone booth for a marching band, but last night's Fraser Institute gathering here in Vancouver was sold out.

And the speaker, neocon Albertan Ezra Levant, is the toast of the Left Coast. The former Western Standard publisher and Reform MP is on a Vancouver tour de triomphe while basking in the glow of rave reviews for his latest book, Shakedown, including one from Rex Murphy, the man who put the polysyllables in pundit.

What's going on here? Why is Ezra Levant the flavour of the month? Dare I say because he deserves to be?

Levant and his fellow traveller, Mark Steyn, were both targeted by various of the 13 Canadian human rights commissions for their work on Islam: Levant for publishing the notorious Danish Muhammad cartoons when he knew it was dangerous; and Steyn for musing in MacLean's that Islam is winning the war against civilization by breeding more ambitiously.



Yes, the neo-con is always wondering why the rest of us fuzzy thinkers can't see that the glass is half empty and draining fast. But whatever I think, I support the right's right to say what it thinks. Not so the collective government thought police known as the human rights commission. Under the guise of protecting the rights of minorities, the HRCs have trampled everyone else's.

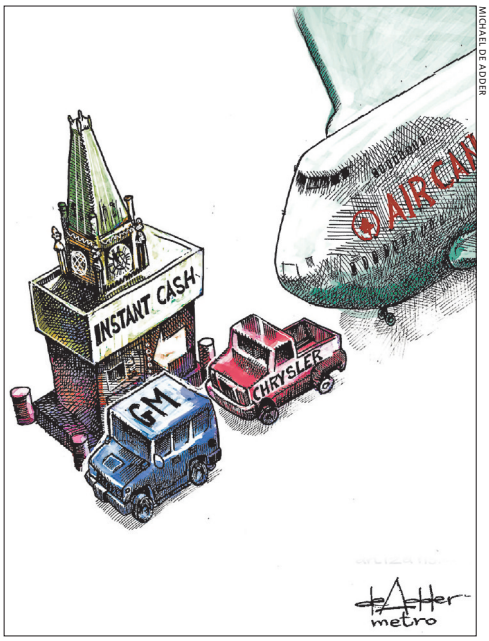
Steyn and Levant, unlike so many cowed into silence, stood up against what Levant calls "Alice in Wonderland commissions where bizarre new human rights are made up on the spot and where regular legal procedures don't apply." Shakedown is an account of his persecution at the hands of the Alberta commission, as well as a tour through the highlights of a Canadian quasi-judicial system gone starkers.

I think Levant is enjoying his 15 minutes of positive press because Canadians are waking up to the fact that their human rights watchdogs are off the leash, and are thankful that someone has the guts to stand up for freedom of speech, our most important right, the one most in danger of being trampled under the boot of government good intentions.

One hundred people died in the savage madness that erupted over the Danish cartoons poking fun at the prophet Muhammad. I want to continue to live in a country where I can argue with Islam and frankly with all religions promising eternal bliss in return for lockstep compliance here on earth, and not fear the wrath of holy men and bureaucrats.

Thanks to unlikely heroes such as Ezra Levant and Mark Steyn, I am still free to speak and write the truth as I see it. But it's a near thing, and Thomas Jefferson's words still ring true: "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

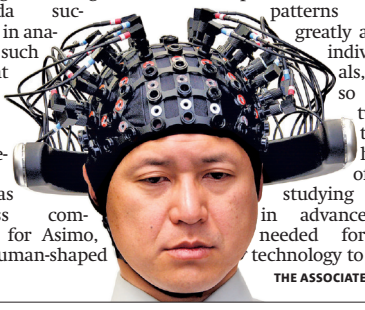
Worth mentioning

Robot controlled by thoughts

SCIENCE Opening a car trunk or controlling a home air conditioner could become just a wish away with Honda's new technology that connects thoughts inside a brain with robotics.

Honda Motor Co. has developed a way to read patterns of electric currents on a person's scalp as well as changes in cerebral blood flow when a person thinks about four simple movements — moving the right hand, moving the left hand, running and eating.

Honda succeeded in analyzing such thought patterns, and then relaying them as wireless commands for Asimo, its human-shaped robot.



In a video shown yesterday in Tokyo, a man wearing a helmet sat still, but thought about moving his right hand — the thought was picked up by cords attached to his head inside the helmet. After several seconds, Asimo, programmed to respond to brain signals, lifted its right arm.

Honda said the technology wasn't quite ready for a live demonstration because of possible distractions in the person's thinking. Another problem is that brain patterns differ greatly among individuals, and so about two to three hours of studying them in advance are needed for the technology to work.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Word on the street: Are you concerned that the Conservative government is planning to scrap the gun registry?

Rob Noble, age 48, Toronto
A: I'm not sure they'd save any money by doing this. They've already spent the money instating it in the first place.

Lisanne Binhammer, age 18, Toronto
A: Yes, I'm concerned. Even if we don't know where all the guns are, it's good to have a track on at least some of them.

Tim Chukwu, age 45, Toronto
A: I don't like guns. If you have them, you're going to use them ... so no, I don't want to get rid of it.

Hillary Ferguson, age 20, Halifax
A: I wouldn't want people to not register their guns because it will make it a lot easier for criminals to get guns.

Pierre Lepeu, age 32, Ottawa
A: I'm neutral with this ... I think it's best to register though.

Meliz Ergin, age 32, Vancouver
A: Yes. I think it makes more sense to have it registered. It's a weapon right?

Metro Online Poll Results

70% SAID HELP

Would a hike in minimum wage help or hurt the economy?
Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca

30% SAID HURT

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Off-road vehicles recalled after 46 deaths

Yamaha Motor Corp. USA recalled about 120,000 Rhino 450 and 660 off-highway recreational vehicles for repairs yesterday designed to prevent accidents that resulted in 46 deaths and hundreds of injuries since the fall of 2003. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR		OIL	TSX
0.03¢	C$ 79.28¢ US	$49.66 US	8,720.39
	US$ $1.2613	$1.25	124.17

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

In brief

BANKING Scotiabank has become the seventh-largest bank in Nova Scotia — courtesy of the shrivelling of big American competitors, said Rick Waugh, the chief executive of the Bank of Nova Scotia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Airline hires 'hatchet man'

Air Canada has hired a restructuring expert reviled by unions to oversee deep changes and possibly the air carrier's second go at bankruptcy protection from creditors in six years.

Late Monday, the Montreal-based airline announced the resignation of Montie Brewer as president and chief executive and named Calin Rovinescu, a former Air Canada executive who played a key role in the airline's court-supervised restructuring in 2003-04, as his replacement.

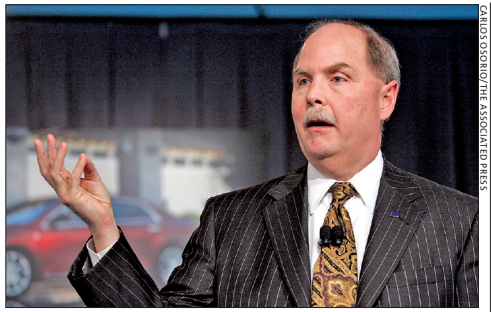
The appointment of Rovinescu, who takes over today, signals the airline is preparing dramatic changes to address its debts, mounting pension liabilities and other cash problems, observers say. "He's definitely a hatchet man," Jacques Kavafian of Research Capital Corp. said.

The company faces $660 million in debt payments, a pension shortfall that has tripled to $3.2 billion and capital spending needs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Labour talks

- Air Canada's unions made the departure of Calin Rovinescu as chief restructuring officer in 2004 a condition of accepting concessions.
- Labour negotiations set for June will likely become even more acrimonious with an increased likelihood of disruptions or strikes.



CARLOS OSORIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

General Motors Corp.'s new CEO Fritz Henderson tells a news conference in Detroit yesterday that more plants could close.

GM may close more plants

CRISIS General Motors Corp.'s new chief executive Fritz Henderson said yesterday that more of the automaker's plants could close — beyond the five GM said it would shutter when it submitted a restructuring plan — as part of GM's effort to meet new, tougher requirements for government aid.

Henderson also said GM is still talking with potential buyers of the Hummer brand, and a decision on the brand's fate will come in the next few weeks.

GM also launched its Total Confidence program yesterday that will make car payments for customers who lose their jobs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada could lose new technologies

CAPITAL The ability of Canada to develop the new technologies of the future is in jeopardy because entrepreneurs can't get financing to see them through the recession, the Business Development Bank of Canada warns.

The Crown corporation says the disappearance of venture capital will snuff out hundreds of innovative small companies in infancy and their technology with them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Electronics firm turns around loss

INCOME Toronto-based Adeptron Technologies saw a fourth-quarter net income of $600,000, reversing a year-earlier net loss of $5.9 million. Sales were up 31 per cent to $13 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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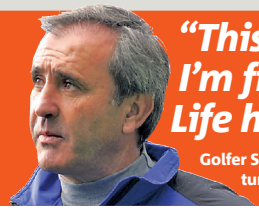
Ballpark burger labelled health hazard

A 4,800-calorie burger offered by the West Michigan Whitecaps minor league baseball team this season has been labelled a "dietary disaster" by health professionals. The 1.8-kilogram, $20 US burger features five beef patties, five slices of cheese, a cup of chili and liberal doses of salsa and corn chips, all on a 20-centimetre bun. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



"This is the most important shot of my life. I'm fighting to win my sixth major ... Life has given me a second chance."

Golfer Seve Ballesteros, left, to Spanish sports daily Marca on his fight against a cancerous brain tumour. Ballesteros began his fourth round of chemotherapy. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Leafs get their Hanson

Christian Hanson believes his stick will be what separates him from his father's schtick.

The 23-year old son of Dave Hanson — one of the iconic Hanson Brothers of Slap Shot movie fame — will be introduced today as the newest Maple Leaf.

The highly sought free agent forward inked a two-year contract with the Maple Leafs yesterday, three days after the Notre Dame Fighting Irish were eliminated from the U.S. college hockey playoffs.

"It's pretty neat," said Hanson, reached in South Bend, Ind. "After Notre Dame got eliminated, Toronto was one of the teams that came and made an offer. It just seemed like the right fit for me. It's a storied organization, and I feel Mr. Burke (Leafs GM Brian Burke) has a tremendous track record and has the team heading in the right direction."

As a player, Hanson is about as far as possible from the celluloid goon his father portrayed or the plugger his father was in those years toiling mostly in the minors, with 33 NHL games to his credit.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Christian Hanson, middle, with dad Dave and mom Sue. Right, from left, Dave Hanson, Steve Carlson and Jeff Carlson as the Hanson brothers in the film Slap Shot.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PHOTO

"He has got a keen hockey sense," said Dave Hanson. "He's got good speed, good hands, good shot. He's not going to be a role player, which was my game."

Raised largely in upstate New York, Christian Hanson was a rink rat like most other hockey kids. Dave Hanson put his son on skates at age two, and coached him until 16.

But there was always one thing Christian had to deal with that the other kids didn't: The fame of his father and two ex-teammates. Dave Hanson, Jeff Carlson and brother Steve Carlson — journeymen players — gained fame as the bruising, brawny Hanson Brothers. Their knuckles wrapped in foil, their coke-bottle glasses taped, they punched their way to cult hero status in the 1977 movie starring Paul Newman. Christian figures he's probably seen the movie about 40 or 50 times, watching it two or three times a year.

"Every time you watch it, you see something else that's funny."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Christian Hanson

- The 6-foot-4, 230-pound Hanson had 36 goals, 28 assists and 123 penalty minutes in four seasons at Notre Dame.

Don't paint TFC fans with the 'H' label

Duane Rollins
Guest columnist

It was all very sensational. Debate over a YouTube video of a Toronto FC fan allegedly being Tasered by Columbus police gripped much of the city yesterday.

And predictably the video has caused quite the stir in the Toronto media. Some journalists — most of which were 600 kilometres away at the time of the incident — have cast judgment on the Toronto fans. They have called them an "embarrassment" and have suggested that what happened in Columbus is a sign that hooliganism is on its way to Toronto. Speaking as someone who was about 10 feet away from the man seen in the video, I can't say that I'm surprised by the reaction.

However, the predictability of it doesn't make it any less preposterous.

The truth is there are more fights on Richmond Street at closing time on a Friday night than there were in Columbus on Saturday — or, to put a sporting spin on it, at a typical NFL game.

At last year's Dec. 7 NFL game between Buffalo and San Francisco, there were 33 arrests, 21 of which involved Canadians.

On Saturday, there were two arrests, one of which involved a Canadian.

Yet it's the soccer game that is getting all the attention. Why is that?

Hooliganism is a dying concept that was rooted in class politics and was mostly a product of a certain time (the 1970s) and place (working-class England). No one involved in the TFC supporters' groups is looking to return to that time.

It's time to do away with the H-word when reporting about soccer in this country.

Duane Rollins writes everything football at the 24thminute.com. He also talks everything footie for It's Called Football on thatchannel.com

"Crossed the line"

- Unruly visiting Toronto FC supporters "crossed the line" in their post-game confrontation with hometown fans and police in Columbus, says the team's owner. "It's a real disappointment," Tom Anselmi, executive vice-president and chief operating officer with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment, said of Saturday's incident. About 2,000 TFC fans travelled to the game in Columbus against the Crew, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Sgt. Rich Weiner of the Columbus Police Department said Saturday's post-game incident overwhelmed the security on hand. "It was big enough to ask cars from all over the city to respond to that area because there were numerous fights and disturbances," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bobcats complete sweep of Lakers

NBA Gerald Wallace had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and the Charlotte Bobcats continued their surprising mastery of the Los Angeles Lakers in a 94-84 victory last night. Raymond Felton added 16 points as the Bobcats completed a season sweep of the Western Conference leaders, who have lost six of seven to Charlotte. Failing to reach 100 points in consecutive games for the first time since November, the Lakers dropped their second straight. Charlotte moved within one game of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For more sports coverage visit: metronews.ca

Brotherly love **Habs win, Leafs eliminated**

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canadiens' Andrei Kostitsyn, left, defends brother Sergei, right, after a hit by Chicago's Aaron Johnson. Montreal's 4-1 win along with Florida's win eliminated Toronto from playoff contention.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Florida 5 Ottawa 2
Montreal 4 Chicago 1
Boston 3 Tampa Bay 1
Columbus 2 Nashville 1
Vancouver at Minnesota
Anaheim at Edmonton
Dallas at Los Angeles

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Philadelphia at **TORONTO**
N.Y. Islanders at Washington
Buffalo at Atlanta
New Jersey at Pittsburgh
St. Louis at Chicago
Phoenix at Colorado

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte 94 L.A. Lakers 84
Cleveland 79 Detroit 73
Indiana 107 Chicago 105
Philadelphia 98 Atlanta 85
Dallas at Minnesota
Oklahoma City at San Antonio

TONIGHT'S GAMES
TORONTO at Orlando
Detroit at New Jersey
Charlotte at Boston
Washington at Memphis
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee
Miami at Dallas
Houston at Phoenix
Sacramento at Golden State
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers
New York at Denver
Utah at Portland
New Orleans at Sacramento

TONIGHT'S GAMES
TORONTO at Orlando
Detroit at New Jersey
Charlotte at Boston
Washington at Memphis
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee
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Houston at Phoenix
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Calipari heading to Kentucky

John Calipari has decided to leave the University of Memphis and become the men's basketball coach at the University of Kentucky. ESPN reported Calipari will receive an eight-year, $35-million US deal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Garnett out at least four more

NBA Kevin Garnett will miss at least the next four games with a sore right knee and may return for the final three games of the Boston Celtics' regular season. The emotional leader of the defending NBA champions has missed 15 of the last 19 games, including the last two. The Celtics hope the rest will help him get healthy for the playoffs. Garnett first injured his knee Feb. 19 at Utah.

Vick to pay Falcons $6.5M

NFL Michael Vick has agreed to pay the Atlanta Falcons at least $6.5 million US as part of his bankruptcy case, moving closer to cutting ties with a team that doesn't want him back. The settlement was reached ahead of Vick's bankruptcy hearing in Virginia tomorrow. The Falcons are trying to trade Vick, who is still barred from the NFL as he serves out a nearly two-year sentence for operating a dog-fighting ring.

If no deal is reached, Atlanta will likely cut its former star before the start of training camp.

Hall changes rules for women

HOCKEY The Hockey Hall of Fame is revamping its by-laws in a move that signals it is ready to admit its first female player. Starting in 2010, the Hall will consider male and female candidates separately. The new bylaw will allow a maximum of four men and two women to be inducted each year. Currently, there is a maximum of four player inductees and women are judged and considered against men.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Votto ready to be a vet for Reds

Etobicoke's Joey Votto smacked pitches in the last of the four covered batting cages outside the clubhouse yesterday, sweat colouring the back of his Cincinnati Reds T-shirt a dark grey.

Standing right behind him: Right-fielder Jay Bruce, bat over shoulder, waiting.

After about three minutes of steady swings, Votto left the cage and sat down on a nearby bench.

He was replaced in the cage by Bruce, who got in his few minutes. Soon, they were sitting side-by-side on the bench, waiting for their next turns.

Like it or not, they're linked.

They're different ages, play different positions and have vastly different personalities.

One thing in common: A friendship formed in the crucible of high expectations, finally on the rise this season on a team that's had eight straight losing seasons.

"They're good citizens," manager Dusty Baker said, providing his highest compliment.

It's a stretch to say that it's entirely up to those two — the Reds have gotten much younger in a lot of areas.

Second baseman Brandon Phillips won his first Gold Glove last season at age 27. Johnny Cueto became a rookie fixture in the rotation at age 22.

Third baseman Edwin Encarnacion had a career-high 26 homers at age 25.

But it was the emergence of the rookie first baseman from Toronto and the rookie right-fielder that allowed the franchise to plunge into a makeover.

The Reds traded right-fielder Ken Griffey Jr. and left-fielder Adam Dunn, who had been the faces of the franchise for most of the decade.

Now, it's Votto and Bruce leading a lineup that's a lot younger.

Are they ready for this?

"Honestly, I think so," Votto said. "But we've got to play well and perform. If we're going to be those guys on the team, we can't be the losing group. "We've got to move in a better direction and be that group of guys that puts us over the hump and gets us over .500 and, eventually, into the playoffs."

In the clubhouse, they gravitated toward each other.

"I'm a little older than Jay," Votto said.

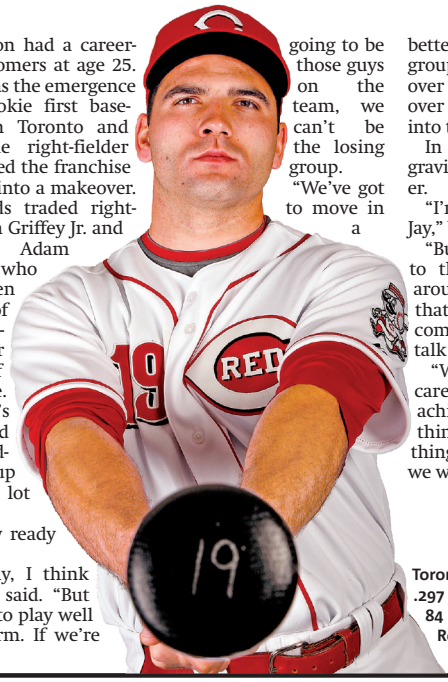
"But the fact that we got to the big leagues right around the same time, that gives us something in common, something to talk about.

"We're still young in our careers. We want to achieve the same type of things and do the same thing with the team, and we want to do it together."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays lose

- The Blue Jays lost 9-1 to the Philadelphia Phillies in Grapefruit League action last night. Travis Snider hit his fourth home run of the spring for the Jays.



Toronto native Joey Votto hit .297 with 24 home runs and 84 RBIs for the Cincinnati Reds last season.

Bader happy to start UFC from the bottom

UFC Ryan (Darth) Bader hasn't let winning Season 8 of The Ultimate Fighter go to his head. Far from it.

As he prepares to meet Carmelo Marrero tonight on a card in Nashville (8 p.m., Spike TV), the unbeaten mixed martial arts light-heavyweight figures he has nowhere to go but up in the UFC.

"I feel after winning that I'm starting right back at the bottom, getting thrown into the UFC, the 205-pound division, which is one of the best in the world right now," Bader said in an interview. "And so I feel like I'm the low man on the totem pole now. Definitely I stay humble at all times, I think everybody should."

Ryan Bader fights Carmelo Marrero tonight.

Humble, yes. Wallflower, no.

In what is billed on YouTube as his audition tape for The Ultimate Fighter, the six-foot-two Bader guzzles beer from a keg while being held upside down in the air by friends, floats naked in a pool save for a Pamela Anderson-style hat, is shown painted green like a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle and in a dark room practising with his lightsabre, so to speak.

Elsewhere on YouTube, he is shown administering limps by kicking the legs of surprisingly willing volunteers during a trip to Mexico.

Bader (9-0) won the reality TV show with a bang, clubbing jiu-jitsu ace Vinny Magalhaes to the ground with a right to the temple two minutes 18 seconds into the fight. The punch was so hard that Bader suffered soft tissue damage to his hand. Which only makes you wonder how Magalhaes felt.

"I stay humble at all times, I think everybody should."
Ryan (Darth) Bader

"First of all, he's a phenomenal athlete," said former WEC welterweight champion Carlos Condit, who trains with Bader. "The guy is very tough. He is very, very strong, very powerful and he's a big dude. But he's so quick and so agile, he moves likes a lighter guy.

"He's a phenomenal wrestler but on the other hand, he's dangerous with his striking also. He's got a lot of dangerous weapons."

Bader, 25, has a pretty good handle on Marrero, a former heavyweight who has beaten Cheick Kongo and lost to Gabriel Gonzaga and Wilson Gouveia in the UFC. He was in the crowd when Steve Steinbeiss lost a split decision to Marrero (10-2-1) on a WEC card last November.

"I think it's a good matchup for me," he said. "It'll be a good fight. It'll be exciting but I feel I'm a better wrestler and that's his strong point, so I just feel I'm a little better at all the aspects of the game."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Broncos will try to trade Cutler

NFL The Denver Broncos said last night they will grant Jay Cutler his request and try to trade the disgruntled Pro Bowl quarterback.

There is no shortage of teams interested in the 25-year-old rocket-armed quarterback.

Broncos owner Pat Bowlen released a statement saying both he and coach Josh McDaniels had been unable to get Cutler to call them back over the last 10 days.

Cutler

Bowlen said he spoke with Cutler's agent, Bus Cook, yesterday and came away convinced "that Jay no longer has any desire to play for the Denver Broncos."

Therefore, Bowlen said: "We will begin discussions with other teams in an effort to accommodate his request to be traded."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For more sports coverage visit: metronews.ca

Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws

Starting next Monday, Metro's Workology section will be setting its sights on all the jobs that involve our furry friends. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Workology

Vote for your favourite lecture

In the race to the finish line, this is your last chance to cast your vote in TVO's 2009 Big Ideas Best Lecturer Competition. The competition, now in its fourth year, has come down to 10 educators vying for the title through their oratory skills. Viewers can now vote for any or all of the finalists. Voting ends Sunday April 5 at 6 p.m. You can vote online at tvo.org/bigideas or by calling 1-866-281-3536. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Women tattoo artists showing up the men

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

The girls of Sister Salvation can't save your soul but they can definitely put a kick-ass spot of ink on it.

Opened just last summer, the women-run tattoo shop at 322 Bloor St. W. has so far defied the odds in a male-dominated market to serve an increasing clientele of both sexes.

For co-owner Karen Stewart, getting Sister Salvation off the ground is as much about empowerment as it is about business.

"I always felt like women weren't as represented in the tattoo industry — it's always been somewhat of a boys club. We want to change that," Stewart said.

Stewart and co-owner Allison Lawson, 26, met at a tattoo parlour in Barrie, Ont., about five years ago and since then had dreamed of creating a tattoo parlour run completely by women. With the growing mainstream success of female tattoo artists like Kat Von D and her television show L.A. Ink, Stewart and Lawson felt the time was finally right to open the shop in June 2008.

For Lawson, running Sister Salvation is a chance to spread her wings creatively and do work that bends the boundaries of tattooing as an art form.

"Tattooing has been heading more towards fine art and less towards the standard choices. For me, the challenge is taking it to that fine art level — the skin is just another canvas," Lawson said.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

The Sister Salvation tattoo palour crew are seen here, from left, Allison Lawson, 26, Karen Stewart, 28, Evie Bacopulos, 24, Michelle Sansano, 26.

> **"I always felt like women weren't as represented in the tattoo industry — it's always been somewhat of a boys club."**
> Sister Salvation co-owner Karen Stewart

Tattoo artists Michelle Sansano and Evie Bacopulos who already work at Sister Salvation will step up as two more co-owners in the new location, making the tattoo shop one of only a handful in North America completely staffed and owned by women.

Stewart says the shop had a lot of naysayers when it first opened but good business savvy has pulled them through.

"We were the first shop that took advertising out on Facebook — it generated a lot of business for us," Stewart said.

The girls will put ink on anyone; in fact their clientele is mostly men and older women, often ones getting their first tattoo. The shop specializes in custom work and prides itself on its customer service — instead of charging per hour, the shop charges per tattoo, allowing clients the time to express what they want and work with tattoo artists to design the perfect tattoo.

Stewart says tattoos are an emotional journey that good artists help navigate.

"Some people get tattoos for emotional reasons or to mark a change in their lives, but not everyone can express themselves with words. It's our challenge to express what they want and make it come alive," she said.

Call 416-927-7700 to contact Sister Salvation or 416-588-4526 after April 17 to reach them at their new location at 384 Harbord St.

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Upgrades for Mohawk
Mohawk College's Fennell campus, in Hamilton, Ont., could undergo an $80-million upgrade and expansion beginning as early as this summer. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Make sure business contracts are in writing

WorkplaceLaw

Planning to start their own Jamaican restaurant in Edmonton, entrepreneurs James and Mary Scott first needed an experienced cook. When a mutual friend introduced them to Warren Edwards, they knew they had found their man.

The Scotts and Edwards immediately began to discuss a potential job. During a phone call, they agreed that Edwards, who lived in Ontario, would be relocated to Edmonton, given a salary of $45,000, two months' free rent, furniture for an apartment and airfare. None of those terms were put into writing.

With only an oral agreement to rely on, Edwards hopped on a plane and flew out to Alberta. But shortly after Edwards began work, the restaurant started losing money. The relationship then soured. Attempting to cut their losses, the Scotts offered to lease the restaurant to Edwards for $3,500 a month. Edwards countered with a smaller figure and, according to him, because he had rejected the Scotts' price, they became hostile towards him. They stopped helping out at the restaurant, leaving Edwards to fend for himself.

Soon after, Edwards' salary was reduced. For Edwards, this was the last straw. An argument ensued, and Edwards left the restaurant to cool down. Mr. Scott telephoned him the next day to say that as he had "quit," he was out of a job.

Believing that Edwards had agreed to reimburse the Scotts for the expenses they had incurred to relocate him to Edmonton and the first two months of rent that they paid, they sued him. According to the Scotts, the agreement they had reached required Edwards to remain employed for a year; otherwise, he would be responsible to repay them for the moving expenses that they had initially covered. Edwards counterclaimed for severance pay, arguing that by changing the terms of his job, the Scotts had given him no choice but to leave.

Noting that Edwards had travelled across the country to take up a job, an Alberta court recently found that he was clearly in a vulnerable position when compared to his employer. When the new business venture did not go as planned, the Scotts effectively pulled the plug, leaving Edwards without any other reasonable option but to leave.

Oral agreements, once proven, can be legally binding. However, there is usually conflicting evidence of what was actually agreed to. Here, without any documentation to reflect the agreement that had been reached during the parties' initial telephone discussions, the court struggled to re-create the terms.

But even if the court found that an agreement had been reached, it was unprepared to hold Edwards to its terms. Relying on the legal doctrine of unconscionability, which allows a court to overturn an agreement if it is substantially unfair, it found that the Scotts deliberately manipulated Edwards' weaker bargaining position in order to take advantage of him. The Scotts' claim was dismissed and Edwards was awarded severance pay.

Courts are loath to enforce agreements where the terms are not sufficiently clear or where the entire agreement is deemed unfair. This case presents a classic example. If you want to ensure that a contract will be enforced later on, commit the terms to writing and give each side an opportunity to review that language before finalizing the deal.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Metro Drive

Mazda's H factor

Mazda Motor Corporation has started commercial leasing of the Mazda Premacy Hydrogen RE Hybrid in Japan, becoming the world's first auto manufacturer to begin commercial leasing of a hydrogen hybrid vehicle, Canadian Driver reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Wheels on fire

It's back to the classics in Fast & Furious

Nissan Skyline R34

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

Movie and television cars are big business, and The Fast and The Furious franchise is no different, having spawned lookalikes galore after each of its three previous instalments.

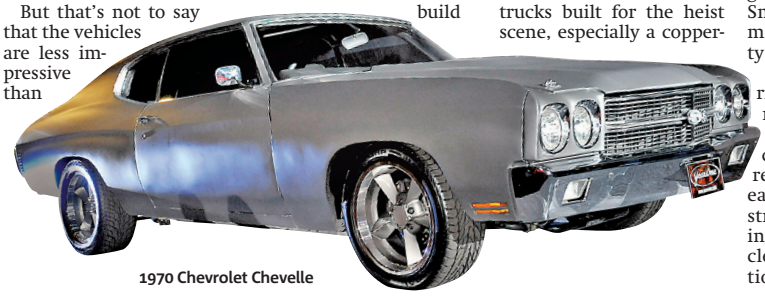
Things are a little different in the fourth film which opens this Friday. The flashy, overwrought, hyper-tuned import cars that served as stars are there, but there's greater focus on more subtly modified American muscle cars and pickup trucks. Even the flick's name has been pared back to a simple Fast & Furious, doing away with the excess numbers and definitive articles.

But that's not to say that the vehicles are less impressive than before.

Fans of the series will still have the Nissan Skyline R34, and a brand-new Subaru WRX STI, driven by star Paul Walker's character, but majority of the action is devoted to older lovelies like the 1970 Dodge Challenger and two versions of the 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle that Vin Diesel drove in the original movie.

"Reading the script, it was obvious this was going to be bigger than Tokyo Drift," said Dennis McCarthy, car co-ordinator for the third and the current The Fast and The Furious films, in an interview with online car magazine Edmunds Inside Line.

"And a lot more of them were going to be 'specialty cars' that we'd have to build ourselves."



1970 Chevrolet Chevelle

Who drives what

- STAR: Paul Walker
CHARACTER: Brian O'Conner
CARS: Nissan Skyline R34; Subaru WRX STI
- STAR: Vin Diesel
CHARACTER: Dominic Toretto
CARS: 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle, 1987 Grand Buick National

One new favourite includes the 1987 Buick Grand National, which Diesel uses during a heist scene. In fact, one of the seven replicas built for the film has its body mounted backwards on the frame so that it could be driven 'in reverse' at high speeds.

Among other eye-catchers are the Chevrolet trucks built for the heist scene, especially a copper-coloured 1967 version.

In fact, that's how most of the movie cars look and feel: Subtle, purposeful, and bereft of much decoration. Flat paints are in, big wings and spangly paint jobs are almost definitely out.

Most of the inspiration for these new rides come from some pretty famous vehicles that make "guest appearances" in the movie. The "Big Red" 1969 Chevrolet Camaro that started the "Pro Touring" style in the late '80s; the 1,500-horsepower "F-Bomb" 1973 Chevrolet Camaro project car from Hot Rod magazine; and the 1978 Year One "Bandit" Trans Am, which evokes Burt Reynolds' black-and-gold Pontiac from the Smokey and the Bandit movies, are all given plenty of screen time.

And what about the risk of damaging such rare beauties?

Well, for "star" vehicles, up to six or seven replicas were built of each, and most were destroyed in filming. Meaning some fairly rare vehicles, like the aforementioned Grand Nationals, were sacrificed on the moviemaking altar to the dismay of auto-enthusiasts everywhere.

Take heart, though, in knowing that virtually none of the vehicles built for the movie feature have what's assumed to be "under the hood."

Most of the understudies were created with much more basic engines and transmissions, meaning they were much less valuable.

FOR MORE ON FILMS AND CARS, TURN TO PG. 28

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS

Vin Diesel returns to the franchise in Fast & Furious and can be seen driving many classic cars in the film.

Acura TSX V6 debuts at Vancouver auto show

Acura's all-new V6 model for its TSX sports sedan lineup made its Canadian debut Monday at the Vancouver International Auto Show.

Scheduled to go on sale later this summer, the new 2010 TSX V6 will be equipped with a powerful 3.5-litre V6 engine, exclusive suspension tuning, larger diameter wheels and additional enhancements.

"Our new TSX V6 highlights the performance direction of Acura's sedans with its improved acceleration and handling," said Jerry Chenkin, executive vice president, Honda Canada Inc.

"The TSX V6 is an important step in the advancement of our Acura sedan lineup and in the continued enhancement of the Acura brand."

The V6 model adds a new level of power to the TSX lineup for a more sporty and spirited driving experience. The model is designed to satisfy driving enthusiast's appetite for a fun-to-drive, yet refined sports sedan.

Acura's all-new TSX V6.

A new TSX powertrain choice means performance luxury buyers can enjoy a 280 horsepower 3.5L V6, with sophisticated VTEC(R) valvetrain control and a dual-stage induction system. For maximum performance and efficiency, the engine will be coupled to Acura's Sequential SportShift automatic transmission, with intelligent features such as Grade Logic Control and Shift Hold Control.

If the driver desires, the Sequential SportShift transmission can also be operated manually, via steering-wheel mounted F1(R)-style paddle shifters.

The new model will also feature a state-of-the-art, double-wishbone front and multilink rear suspension system to provide excellent ride, handling and control.

Like all Acura models, the new TSX will feature a host of standard equipment, including leather-appointed interior, power moonroof, automatic climate control, a premium seven-speaker sound system with CD, AM/FM tuner, satellite radio, Bluetooth(R) HandsFreeLink(R), USB port and AUX jack music interface and more.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Aura top-notch contender

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

With the days of super-cheap gas long behind us, the four-cylinder engine is rapidly becoming "king of the road." Many of them are now as quiet and powerful as V6 engines used to be, and they're showing up in more models than ever.

The Saturn Aura is aimed to please commuters, with its light driving feel and a well-designed, functional interior.

2009 Saturn Aura

Type: Midsize sedan
Price: $23,728-$26,395
Engine: 2.4L four-cylinder
HP: 169

Highlights

- Roomy interior
- Nice to drive
- Good fuel economy

Saturn has responded with the midsize Aura sedan. The 2.4-litre four-cylinder previously found only in the base XE model is now also available in the upper-line XR trim. GM further streamlines the model by dropping one of the two V6 engines offered for 2008; for 2009, there's only a 3.6-litre V6, solely in XR trim. The 2.4-litre also shows up in the Aura Hybrid, a "mild" version that shuts off at idle, but can't run on its battery alone.

Mated exclusively to a six-speed automatic — sister car Chevrolet Malibu uses a four-speed in its base trim — the 2.4-litre Aura gets better overall fuel economy than any of its non-hybrid, auto-equipped midsize sedan competitors. Official figures are 9.4 L/100 km in the city and 5.9 on the highway; in combined cold-weather driving, I averaged 8.9 L/100 km.

Pricing starts at $23,728 for the XE, while the XR-4 starts at $26,395. Features on the upper line include auto-dimming mirrors, 17-inch alloy wheels, heated cloth seats (optioned to leather on my car, and which took forever to warm up on my tester) with power adjustment, remote start, Bluetooth and satellite radio. It's another $4,111 to the V6 model, which also adds 18-inch wheels, leather upholstery and automatic climate control. Electronic stability control, six airbags and OnStar are standard on all models.

Drive-wise, I've always been partial to Aura/Malibu. It isn't that anything really stands out, but it's a cohesive package that does what it's meant to do, and does it very well. The 169-horsepower four has enough guts to get through traffic; the interior is roomy; the seats are supportive; the suspension takes care of nasty road imperfections; and fit-and-finish stands up easily to its rivals.

The steering's a bit livelier than on sister Malibu, but it's still no sports sedan. Its light feel will displease driving enthusiasts, but the reality is that this car is aimed at commuters, and that's what most want when they're snaking through city streets en route to the office. It's responsive, though, with no wallowing or rolling around corners, and it's straight and confident on the highway, with no need for constant correction.

Overall, controls are simple and easy to use, save for a fiddly power mirror switch that isn't backlit at night. I also wish GM would find a new steering wheel designer, as it's got just about the ugliest ones in the industry.

It's a crowded market, but GM has delivered a top-notch contender, sweetening it by mixing upper-line trim with a smaller engine. There's no reason why you can't be frugal and extravagant all at the same time.

Synthetic oil becoming the natural choice

Maybe you don't like synthetic cheese. Maybe you just can't get past that day-glow orange hue. Or maybe you're still freaked out about how you can use it, in a pinch, for window putty. Or maybe you're just skeptical about any food product that can be shot out of an aerosol can.

But that shouldn't colour your appreciation for all things synthetic — because synthetic engine oil is the best thing since sliced organic bread.

Refined crude oil (or mineral oil) is, and always has been, a great lubricant for engines; it's 98 per cent of what makes up conventional, or regular, motor oil.

But there also has always been ongoing work on finding lubrication alternatives. These alternatives have the properties of mineral oil, but are a "synthesis" of many chemicals.

The Germans were the first to make mass amounts of the stuff, when they faced petroleum shortages during the Second World War.

It was used in the aerospace industry for many years, but the American Petroleum Institute (API) didn't approve it for passenger car use until the late 1960s.

It outperforms regular engine oil in all parameters, mostly because it's molecule chains are more uniform. Picture a synthetic oil molecule as group of identical marbles. Throw them together and these groups slide against each other very easily.

The molecule groups in conventional oil, however, are comprised of more diverse elements. The marbles are of different sizes, and some aren't even round (which technically wouldn't make them marbles, but I need you to work with me here people). When these groups slide against each other, sharp edges can find other sharp edges to create log jams, and these edges are more vulnerable to being chopped off and/or destroyed by heat and friction.

Synthetic oil has several advantages over conventional oil, columnist Michael Goetz says.

Through years of testing and years of use, the advantages of synthetic oils have become obvious: Way better flow in cold temperatures and start-up; more durable so less oil changes are needed; more slippery so better protection; less likely to sludge up; better fuel economy; more horsepower.

Not surprisingly, synthetic oil use is going steadily up.

I guess the biggest indication that the synthetic wave will eventually wash over the entire market, is more and more cars are filled with synthetic oil at the factory, and are required to use the stuff (by the factory) forever and evermore.

Basically, the only thing going against synthetics, and tempering its upward pace, is price — currently a litre is two to three times the price of a litre of mineral oil. And note that conventional oils continue to stay in the game because their additive packages (the non-mineral oil components) are quite high-tech these days, and make them quite robust for their price.

Price becomes less a factor, however, when you consider what you'll save in fuel mileage and fewer oil changes — which also make it better for the environment.

So it when comes to lubrication, synthetic is, ironically, the real deal, the genuine article, the natural choice, etc.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Top marks for Subaru Forester

SAFETY The 2009 Subaru Forester is one of just four small SUVs out of a total of 12 evaluated to earn top marks recently from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) in its stricter new rollover testing.

According to the IIHS, this new rating system is based on research showing that occupants in rollover crashes benefit from stronger roofs. Vehicles rated Good — the institute's highest rating — must have roofs that are more than twice as strong as those required by minimum U.S. federal safety standards.

"Subaru is delighted ... to do so well in these latest tests," said Katsuhiro Yokoyama, president and CEO of Subaru Canada. "We have an unwavering commitment to designing and building vehicles to the highest standards of active and passive safety, and the results of these independent tests are a reassuring confirmation of our own results."

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Enter greener Tundra

Toyota held the Canadian debut of the 2010 Tundra full-size pickup truck with an all-new more powerful and more fuel-efficient 4.6-litre V8 at the recent Calgary Auto and Truck Show.

The new 4.6-litre V8 engine is available on 4x2 and 4x4 2010 Tundra models.

With 310 hp, 327 lb/ft of torque and preliminary fuel consumption estimates of 14.0 L/100 km in city, 9.9 L/100 km on the highway and 12.1L/100 km combined, the new engine achieves 12 per cent more horsepower and is 11 per cent more fuel efficient than the previous 4.7-litre engine it replaces.

The new engine's performance can be directly attributed to two technologies that are new to the Toyota Tundra.

The 4.6-litre V8 features a Cooled Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR) System, which reduces smog-forming emissions and improves overall fuel efficiency.

Additionally, this new engine adopts an Acoustic Control Induction System (ACIS) to optimize power and torque output.

As with Tundra's optional 5.7-litre V8 engine, the new 4.6-litre V8 will be mated with a six-speed automatic transmission. The six-speed features a TOW/HAUL Mode to maximize performance when towing.

All 2010 Tundra models receive a freshened look with a redesigned front grille and tail lamp design. Additional standard equipment on all Tundra models include driver and front passenger knee airbags and a redesigned seven-pin towing hitch wiring harness connector that sits above the hitch to help avoid damage during high departure angle driving.

Also, a shelf to help organize storage space has been added to the lower glove box.

New and upgraded models and packages give Canadian pick-up drivers more comfortable amenities.

A new Leather and Navigation Package is now available on the popular 4x4 Double Cab SR5 model.

The 4x4 CrewMax Platinum model replaces the Limited model and adopts comfort and style amenities, such as: Unique 20-inch alloy wheels, chrome interior and exterior accents, distinctive perforated leather seats, heated an ventilated front seats, USB audio input, and more.

It offers an available Navigation Package that includes an in-dash four-disc CD Changer, voice-activated DVD Navigation System, back-up camera, and XM Real-Time traffic capability.

Other available features for the new 2010 Tundra include integrated XM satellite radio, Bluetooth, auxiliary inputs, and adjustable headlamp levelling.

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Travel Twittering

Portland, Ore. now has a so-called Twisitor Center, which lets Twitter users send short questions about things to see and do in the city, and get short answers back fast. Follow the feed on Twitter by searching for TravelPortland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel

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Wild, rugged beauty

Ireland's Aran Islands hang onto their charm

Inis Mor, the largest of the Aran Islands west of Ireland, is famous for its wild, rugged beauty, a thousand miles of stone walls, stunning views across the Atlantic and clusters of ancient ruins.

ISTOCKPHOTO

Ruins of a building stand amid a rocky landscape on Inis Mor, Aran Islands.

Playwright J.M. Synge, best-known for his masterpiece The Playboy of the Western World, spent time on the Aran Islands around 1900. Synge was drawn to the resilient, hard-bitten people and their fierce cultural independence.

But these days locals worry that the islands that inspired Synge have gone too far in pursuit of tourist dollars. Ruddy-faced islanders who were once devoted to mackerel fishing now offer horse and cart rides to ferry-loads of day-tripping tourists.

Supermac's, a fast-food restaurant near the Inis Mor harbour, was labelled "vulgar" by residents like Mary Gallagher. Even a government-sponsored Tidy Towns contest scolded the island over Supermac's, saying it did "not fit well with the rest of the island streetscape."

Supermac's is now closed, due to what its manager, Shane Singh, called "a bad tourist season." But that decrease in visitors could make this the perfect time to explore the island's charms undisturbed.

Martin O'Brien, who works for Island Ferries in County Galway, remembers when tourists first started showing up in significant numbers in the 1970s.

"They'd wait for a fishing boat to take them across and they'd leave at three or four in the morning. You could be stuck out there for days," he said, speaking in Gaelic with an ease that generations of Irish governments have unsuccessfully tried to instill in the wider Irish populace.

Today, superfast ferries from Galway take just half an hour to reach Cill Ronain, the main harbour town on the island.

The Aran Islands also include two other less touristed islands, also reachable by boat: Inis Meain and Inis Oirr. You can also reach the islands by airplane — one of several concessions to modernity the islands have recently made, along with Inis Mor's electricity supply from the mainland and broadband Internet access.

If you're considering a trip this summer, there's no better time to visit than the weekend of June 26-28, when Inis Mor runs its Patrun Festival. The annual event shows off the best of the island's traditional way of life, with boat races that include Galway hookers, which are large, red-sailed boats, and curraghs, long tar-coated rowboats that have become an emblem of the west of Ireland.

Read more on page 27 ››

Aran Islands

- See visitaranislands.com or discoverireland.com.
- Aran Island Ferries depart from Rosamhil, 23 miles west of Galway city centre. Expect an hour drive to get there from the city centre. The company also operates a shuttle bus from the city center. For prices and times, which vary with the season, check out aranislandferries.com. County Galway's Connemara Community Airport is not far from the ferry launching point and offers flights to the Arans aerarannislands.ie.
- Visitors travelling north from Kerry, Clare and Cork can take a ferry from Doolin, County Clare; doolinferries.com.
- In addition to the Patrun Festival (June 26-28), Inis Mor also hosts Tedfest or the Father Ted Festival each year at the end of February-beginning of March. The event celebrates a cult TV show called Father Ted.

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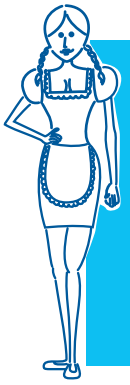

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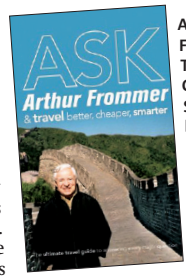
Ask and receive travel answers

Travel guru Arthur Frommer is out with a new book: Ask Arthur Frommer & Travel Better, Cheaper, Smarter. The book is nearly 500 pages long and is packed with tips and advice on everything from how to find the best airfares online to what's good and bad about cruising.



Ask Arthur Frommer: And Travel Better, Cheaper, Smarter by Arthur Frommer (Frommers) $17.51 at amazon.ca.

Frommer makes many enthusiastic recommendations throughout the book, from individual websites such as go-today.com as a source for cheap, quick trips, and vacation options from China to the U.S.

But he also offers lessons he's learned from years of travelling, saying that he now brings a half-empty suitcase, with as few clothes as possible; he tries to eat but one meal a day, a picnic-style feast with cheeses, meats and other specialty food purchased at local delicatessens and grocery stores; and he always buys travel insurance.

Frommer lists some of his favourite places around the world, with recommendations on what to see and do from Bali to the Baltics to Boston; and he even suggests a simple remedy for seasickness with no side effects — ginger. Accommodation recommendations from the book include monasteries and convents in Europe; hostels, even in New York City; apartment rentals; and other alternative lodging.

Frommer's original Europe on 5 Dollars a Day, which started the Frommer series of budget travel guidebooks, was first published in 1957.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warning: Measles outbreaks in western Europe

HEALTH The Public Health Agency of Canada is warning travellers of measles outbreaks currently in several western European countries, including France, Switzerland, Germany, the U.K. and Ireland.

Measles is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths in children worldwide.

Symptoms usually include fever, cough, runny nose, pink eye and rash. Among the serious complications are severe diarrhea, ear infections, pneumonia, blindness and swelling of the brain. Canadians may be protected against measles if they were born before 1970. Adults born since then should ensure they have received two doses of the vaccine. For detailed vaccine recommendations for adults and children, go to: phac-aspc.gc.ca (click on Travel Health, then Advisories & International reports). THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Spring break back at Palm Springs

It wasn't that long ago this California city of aging snowbirds fought back a rising tide of scantily clad college students with the ultimate spring break buzz kill: No thongs, no amplified music and no dancing.

How a troubled economy can change things.

Reeling from the recession, the city's tourism bureau this spring sent a text message to 55,000 college kids — "Skip Cabo, come to Palm Springs" — and students are once again flocking to the ritzy desert oasis better known for its golf courses and gated retirement communities.

In 1986, at the height of the revelry, the Palm Springs jail was packed with inebriated students, and police marched arm-in-arm to sweep throngs of rioting, bottle-throwing partiers off the downtown thoroughfare.

In 1991, then-Mayor Sonny Bono helped pass the now-famous anti-thong ordinance to end the annual spring break tradition of women wearing cheek-baring bikinis as they circled downtown by motorcycle.

ERIC REED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students from different California universities dance during a spring break party at the Holiday Inn in Palm Springs last week.

Today, the city is warily wading back into the spring break tourism niche for the first time in nearly 20 years. Websites promoting deals to college students blare: "Palm Springs practically invented spring break ... and it's back!"

More than 2,000 revellers on spring break tours will rotate through a Holiday Inn on the outskirts of town before the six-week season ends in mid-April, and dozens of independent groups have booked rooms at the 25 hotels offering students reduced midweek rates, according to holiday companies and city officials.

On a recent morning at the Holiday Inn, 250 students were recovering from the previous day of debauchery, which included tequila races, beer pong, an evening dance and a "king and queen of the beach contest" that ended with one female contestant stripping in front of hundreds of poolside revellers.

"It was real fun, from what I remembered."
John Gebhardt, 19

"It was real fun, from what I remembered," said a hungover John Gebhardt, 19, as his friend loaded an autographed beer bong into his car trunk. "A whole bunch of people came from all different schools (and) stayed together partying. It was sick."

Gebhardt's wild week was a glimpse of the Palm Springs of the past, when it attracted crowds of students that multiplied yearly from the 1940s until the city started cracking down in the late '80s.

Today, Palm Springs hopes its spring break push can balance the excess of years past with the desperate need for tourist dollars. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Traffic slowdown

Nav Canada, which provides civil air navigation services across the country, said yesterday that air traffic in February dropped by an average of 5.8 per cent compared with a year ago (after accounting for the month's extra day in 2008). THE CANADIAN PRESS

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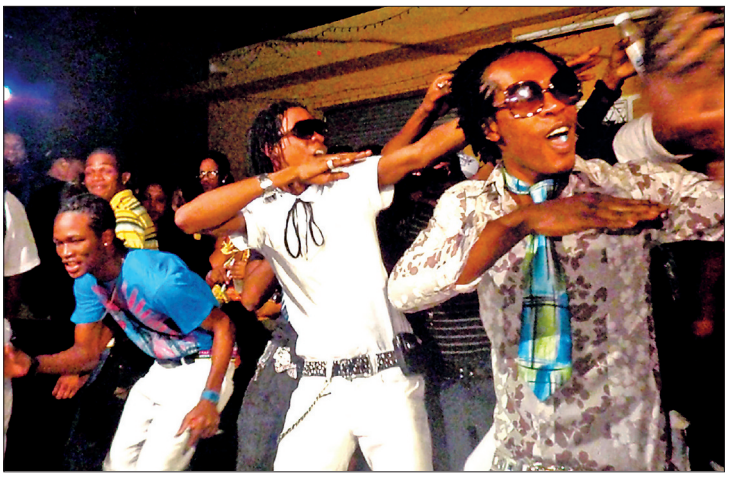

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Dancing at Weddy Weddy, a nightclub event held every Wednesday in Kingston, Jamaica.

Dancing up a storm

Discovering dancehall in Kingston's gritty clubs

Jamaica is a musical country, an auditory mecca of sound and soul. While this jewel of the Caribbean may be world famous for her Bob Marley beats, a trip there proves Jamaican music isn't confined to reggae alone.

Dancehall music, loosely defined as high-energy rap with a Reggaeton rhythm, is extremely popular among local youth. Kingston, the island's capital and largest city, is one of the best places to check out this trend, live and in-stereo.

"Dancehall speaks to the concerns, the aspirations and problems of the inner city. It's a way of negotiating the issues ... a way for young people to grapple with things that are of major concern to them," said Clyde Mckenzie, a well-known local musicologist and judge of the Jamaican version of American Idol.

For a chance to experience dancehall music as it's meant to be heard, I travelled to Weddy Weddy, a nightclub event held every Wednesday in an arena-like haunt called a "dance hall." Located on a gritty avenue in Uptown Kingston, hundreds of twenty-somethings regularly go there to dance into the early morning.

With its pounding sound system, free cover and unrelenting energy, Weddy Weddy not only opens its doors to Jamaican club kids, but also draws adventurous young travellers.

I was curious about the Kingston club scene and the part that dancehall music played within local culture, so I slipped into appropriate club attire and set out to explore.

In a country with one of the world's highest murder rates per capita, I was nervous about my late night expedition, but I was assured by my local contacts that tourists are welcome and safe at Weddy Weddy.

Walking in, I was greeted by friendly bouncers, blaring music and a mushroom cloud of ganja, a smell that permeated throughout the club.

The party gets going pretty late in Kingston, and by 12:30 a.m. the crowd began trickling in. A DJ spun vinyl as girls in pink booty-shorts broke into gymnast-like moves — apparently, the latest tracks often inspire new forms of urban dance.

Weddy Weddy is a fun and inclusive scene to witness but, with all the excitement, it's easy to forget the controversy surrounding the music itself.

McKenzie told me the genre has come under attack in the past few years. Critics of the music have called some its lyrics misogynist and homophobic; the content has even been blamed for Jamaica's alarming murder rate and epidemic of violence, advocating a ban on dancehall artists altogether.

While McKenzie knows about this backlash, he argued that "people from the outside may find the music distasteful only because they don't understand all the nuances of Jamaican culture."

Visiting Weddy Weddy is a great way for tourists to listen to the music in question, speak with the people and judge for themselves. During my time in Kingston, I learned that dancehall music is the evolution of Bob Marley's reggae, it's the popular genre of today and it plays an integral part in Kingston culture — for better or worse.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. EST on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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Top U.S. eateries

Looking to have a great dining experience on your next U.S. trip? Saveur magazine's April issue offers a list of "12 restaurants that matter" in locations ranging from Vegas to Brooklyn. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'There'll be no flashy restaurants on this side of the island'

<< Continued from page 23

JIM RICHARDSON

A signpost points the way in the scenic town of Kilronan on Inis Mor, Aran Islands.

Organizers say the festival is fun for all the family, with tug-of-war, sandcastle competitions and donkey rides. During breaks in festivities, biking and walking are the best ways to experience the island's pristine beaches and patchwork of tiny, stone-bordered fields. Most of the island's landscape is preserved by law and it has lost few of its wild charms.

Some visitors may wish to take a van or horse drawn carriage straight to Dun Aonghasa, an Iron Age fort on the western side of the island.

The fort's ruins lie in a semicircle around a 330-foot-high cliff, offering stunning views across the Atlantic and the southern Irish counties of Clare and Kerry.

Guides here say that the fort was likely used for Celtic ceremonies, possibly seen by the island's ancient inhabitants as the last possible place to say goodbye before souls were taken over the ocean to Tir na nOg, a mythical land where nobody grows old.

But instead of following the tourist hordes on the main road back to Cill Ronain, keep to the right as you leave Dun Aonghasa and follow a coastal road that offers breathtaking views across the sea and the Clare coastline in the distance.

You will soon arrive at the isolated fishing village of Gort na gCapall (the name means field of the horse), where there are no tourist facilities but an awe-inspiring view across Inis Mor's limestone landscape. Consult locally and walk a short distance through stone fields to the crashing waves on the coastline at Poll na bPeist (the worm hole), where the fury of the Atlantic gushes up through a cave like a fountain and falls back down again with the ebb and flow of the waves.

Fill your lungs with fresh air, listen to the pounding of the ocean and forget any talk of a fading culture. This is the Aran that enthralled Synge — savage, wild and achingly beautiful.

"We don't get many tourists this side of the island," said Gallagher, who lives in one of the houses closest to Poll na bPeist.

She looked across the gray stone fields where a cow lazily chewed grass. "But we don't want too many visitors," she said. "There'll be no flashy restaurants on this side of the island. That would just be a pity."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Birthday baby for Hannigan

It's a girl – and she shares her birthday with her mom. How I Met Your Mother star Alyson Hannigan and her husband, actor Alexis Denisof, welcomed a daughter on March 24 in Los Angeles, which also happens to be Hannigan's birthday. PEOPLE.COM

Entertainment

Gossip dancer

Gossip Girl star Chace Crawford reportedly tested over the weekend for the planned Footloose remake, according to E! News. Zac Efron recently backed out of the role. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

History of the chase

Exploring Canadian connection between cars and film

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

With Fast & Furious about to speed into theatres this Friday, the latest installment of the successful hotrod film franchise is sure to be raising testosterone levels across North America.

But did you know the combination of cars and cinema arguably has a connection to Canada's first female filmmaker?

While University of Toronto cinema studies professor Bart Testa would surely stop short of directly linking early pioneer Nell Shipman to Fast & Furious, he does point out the early 20th century artist did play a role.

"(Shipman) made a film in which she spent the entire film in an automobile rescuing her boyfriend and so the film was a kind of car chase movie," says Testa, adding that Shipman may have another association to Fast & Furious. "I understand she actually wrecked three cars making the film."

There are certainly other early examples that are more obvious influences to the modern use of cars in cinema, the original Fast and the Furious (1955) being the most indisputable. But one cannot overlook the importance of such gems as Bullitt, the original Gone in 60 Seconds and even 1971's Vanishing Point.

Movie **feature**

"When you get to (2001's) The Fast and the Furious … they're pretty consciously going back to that," says Testa. "Now they've souped it up because they have special effects and the technology of the automobile has expanded — you can do a lot more with cars."

Although producers of Fast & Furious may be "souping" up for a big box-office take, the automobile industry has been tightening its means in a struggling economy.

With automakers around the globe laying off employees and mothballing their struggling product, it ponders one to consider if the car's golden days in the cinema aren't nearing an end as well.

"I think the car films that we're seeing now, the cars have already moved into the realm of fantasy-after-its-death," says Testa. "One of the things that the Fast and the Furious is about is that, despite the thuggish manner of Vin Diesel and his buddies in these films, there's some suggestion that they're conceptual artists — that the car is already into the realm of art and less the realm of necessity, practicality and the rest of that."

• For a look at the cars used in the fourth installment of the movie franchise, turn to the Metro Drive section on page 19.

Vin Diesel stars in Fast & Furious, the fourth film in the series, which opens in theatres this Friday.

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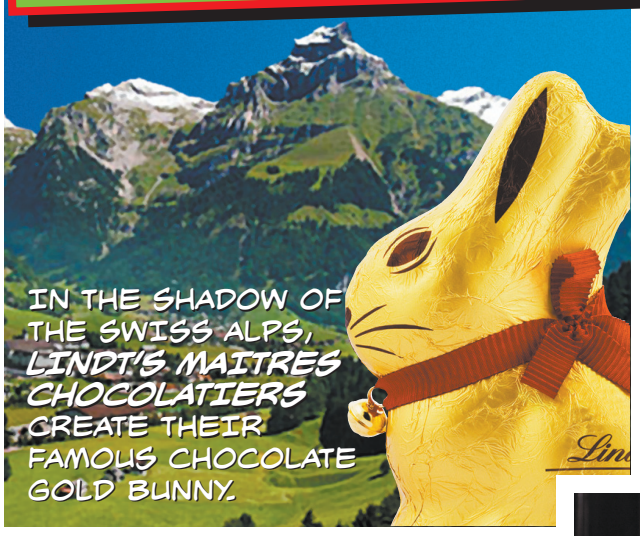

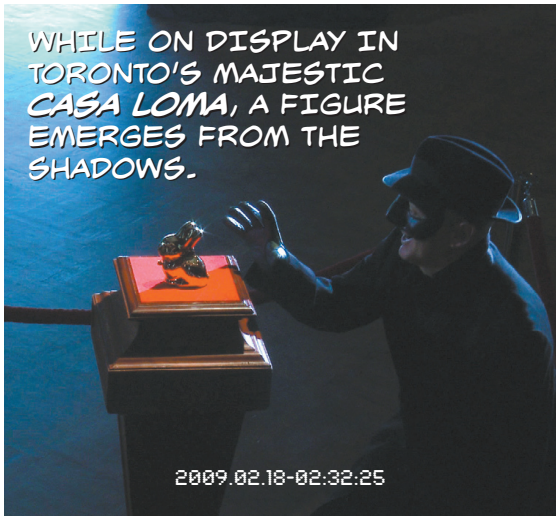

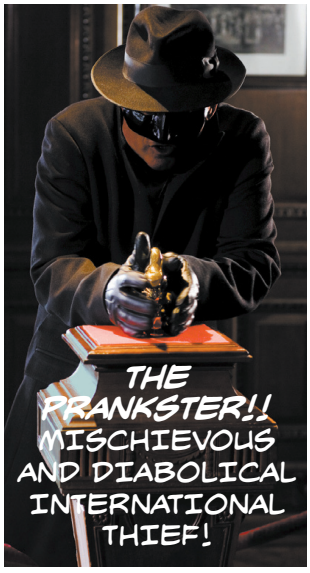

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Tobey gets behind the wheel
Tobey Maguire is eager to get in the driving seat for his forthcoming film — he's signed up to play Phil Hill who won the 1961 World Drivers Championship. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Madge confirms adoption

Pop star attempting to bring home another Malawian child

Madonna has confirmed her attempts to adopt a young Malawian girl and said through a spokeswoman that she is following standard procedures in adopting the child amid criticism by some that she was using her fame to quicken the process.

The 50-year-old pop superstar also confirmed she took her three-year-old son David, also adopted from Malawi, to visit with his biological father Yohane Banda for the first time since she and David left the country in 2006.

"Madonna is committed to maintaining an ongoing relationship with David's Malawian roots" said Liz Rosenberg in a statement yesterday.

Madonna arrived in the African nation this week with David, her 12-year-old daughter Lourdes and eight-year-old son Rocco, and has toured the country and also visited a day care centre built by her charity.

But she also came to the country in attempts to bring home another child from Malawi. In her statement, Madonna confirmed she is trying to adopt a girl named Chifundo (Mercy) James who is about four years old.

Malawian welfare official and another person involved in the proceedings had confirmed an adoption application was under way and spoke on condition of anonymity because the case is considered sensitive.

The girl's 18-year-old mother was unmarried and died soon after she gave birth, according to the child's uncle, John Ngalande. Her father is believed to be alive but has little contact with his daughter, he said.

A coalition of non-governmental organizations called Mwakusungula have criticized Madonna's adoption attempts, saying that adoption should be the last resort and that children need to be taken care of by their own family.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wainwright's opera coming to Toronto

Rufus Wainwright's first-ever opera, Prima Donna, will have its North American premiere in Toronto this spring.

The opera was written entirely in French by Wainwright, who was raised in Montreal. He also composed the score.

Prima Donna is set in Paris in 1970 and tells the story of an aging opera singer trying to regain her status as a great soprano.

Wainwright

It was commissioned by Luminato, the Manchester International Festival and the Melbourne International Arts Festival.

Wainwright is the son of folk-singer parents Loudon Wainwright III and Anna McGarrigle.

The Luminato festival runs from June 5 to 14.

"I'm so thrilled to have my opera, Prima Donna, performed at Luminato in Toronto," Wainwright said in a statement.

"The further I venture through the world of opera the more I realize how daring and risky one has to be in order to succeed in this fickle medium. From the composer to the producer and the hundreds of glorious people in between there must be a steel rod of dedication linking all the elements. Thank you Toronto for having the guts to make it happen."

Wainwright's albums include Want Two and Release the Stars.

His Carnegie Hall tribute to Judy Garland was recently nominated for a Grammy Award.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Makeup artist, fashion stylist sue Latifah

Queen Latifah

PEOPLE A makeup artist and a fashion stylist claim in coordinated lawsuits that they got ugly treatment from Queen Latifah when she cheated them out of $1 million US.

Celebrity cosmetology consultant Roxanna Floyd says she lost $700,000 when the rapper-actress failed to pay her for work she did between July 2005 and February 2008.

In a separate lawsuit, celebrity fashion stylist Susan Moses said she was cheated of $300,000 during the same period.

The lawsuits were filed Monday in federal court in Manhattan. Amanda Silverman, a spokeswoman for the actress whose roles in movies include Hairspray and Mad Money, says the lawsuits have no merit, but she can't comment more on pending litigation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Designer 'beaten down'

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Genevieve Graham got booted for the second time last night from Project Runway Canada.

Twice was not as nice for designer Genevieve Graham as she got eliminated for a second time on last night's episode of Project Runway Canada.

The confident and frank Vancouver designer had previously been eliminated but got a second chance when the show brought her and Hamilton designer Jason Meyers back last week.

This time, designers had to create a tailored business suit for a female executive, with a mid-episode twist: Two hours from the runway show, designers were given another afternoon to create a set of lingerie to be worn under the suit.

Most designers got lauded for their lingerie designs but had varying levels of success with their business suits.

Graham struggled with the constraints of business attire and guest judge David Dixon called her chocolate-brown power suit "frumpy," getting her sent home again.

Graham is happy she got a chance to show more of her unique design style on the show and hopes people will appreciate her against-the-grain fashion creations.

"I got another chance to show my work. I had a very different look from everyone else, a little less on the commercial side. I think being the black sheep will work out for the better," she said.

Graham weathered her first elimination with a shrug and her trademark confidence. This time around the usually stoic designer fought back tears and looked more affected. She says being so close to the prize, especially for a second time, made getting cut that much tougher.

"Leaving and coming back, that was a bit more emotional for me. I was getting closer to the end and I was feeling a little beaten down," Graham said.

Despite getting heaved a second time from the competition, Graham says the experience hasn't shattered her confidence at all.

"I still think I was one of the strongest designers on the show. Every piece I do is individual and one-of-a-kind and I am extremely confident in my work," she said.

Graham admits her choice of thick fabric in the business suit challenge, which made the suit seem heavy and unwieldy, wasn't ideal.

"A different fabric would have been better for sure," she said.

The judges frequently harped on Graham for having similar draped designs in all her clothing but the 31-year-old designer thinks they pigeonholed her too quickly and failed to appreciate the signature look she was going for with all her designs.

"I felt that when I did try to break out a little more (the judges) didn't acknowledge it. I don't think they really understood my brand," Graham said.

When to watch

- Project Runway Canada airs Tuesday nights on Global.

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Pseudo-celebrities that sell stuff
Coming to a store near you: Kendra Wilkinson's new line of stripper poles. "I'm coming out with my own stripper pole. Stripper pole and stripper pole workout," The Girls Next Door star said. USMAGAZINE.COM

And a fighter is born

Squirrelled away in a converted three-car garage in suburban Las Vegas, a producer sits in front of a bank of 11 TV screens. Each one is split into four feeds, showing different angles of the attached house. Two laptops, assorted mixing boards and electronic doohickeys sit neatly below the monitors.

Welcome to Mission Control for The Ultimate Fighter reality TV show.

Take 16 mixed martial arts fighters and divide them into two teams. Then stash them in a gilded cage for six weeks, denying them access to TV, computers, telephones, books or any other contact with the outside world save for trips to the UFC training centre to work out or fight under the tutelage of marquee fighter-coaches.

Add booze and cameras, and watch what happens.

Cast members battle it out until only two are left in whatever weight classes are being contested that season. The finalists go on to meet on a live televised card, with the winner earning a contract to fight in the UFC.

The show has been a huge part of the UFC's success, with president Dana White calling it the organization's Trojan Horse to get on TV.

The UFC had to put its money where its mouth was at first. Season 1, which debuted in January 2005, cost the UFC $10 million US to produce. Spike TV paid nothing for the show, providing only the airtime while the UFC had to find the advertising.

Now the show is an MMA institution.

Season 9 debuts tongiht (Spike TV, 10 p.m. ET and Rogers Sportsnet, check local listings) and a casting call for Season 10 is scheduled for Monday in Seattle.

A good number of each cast graduates to the UFC these days and the "six-figure contract" going to the winner is not quite as attractive when you realize it is spread out over several years. But the show's premise remains true — fight your way into the major leagues of mixed martial arts.

Light-heavyweight Ryan (Darth) Bader celebrates winning Season 8 of The Ultimate Fighter on Dec. 13, 2008, in Las Vegas.

The show has served to educate viewers on the sport while allowing them to develop ties to one graduating class after another. White calls the Pier Six brawl between Forrest Griffin and Stephan Bonnar in the finale of Season 1 one of the sport's turning points. Griffin went on to win the light-heavyweight title, then lose it to Season 2 winner Rashad Evans.

Producers have tweaked the format. Season 4 was devoted to fighters making a comeback while the new season pits American against U.K. fighters. And in a bid to add drama, cast members now have to fight their way on to the show via an elimination bout.

It's not for everyone. While each season offers different fighters and storylines, much remains the same. Some worry the drunken hijinks may end badly one day.

And not every demographic chuckles when a grown man seasons someone else's food with urine or semen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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In brief

RENEWAL NBC is keeping the lights on for its high school football-based drama Friday Night Lights. A person close to the production said Monday that the show has been renewed for two more 13-episode runs and will be on the air through the 2010-11 season.

COURTS Andre 3000 of the hip hop duo Outkast has been charged with driving 175 kilometres an hour on a highway in suburban Atlanta.The 33-year-old Benjamin is free on $1,200 US property bond pending a court date April 29. Police say Benjamin told them he was going so fast because he missed an exit and had to turn around. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

SWEET

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/1/09 primetime	265	353	2 TVO	Saving Our Seabirds (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Last Enemy (Part 1 of 5) (N)			View From Hr	Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		Bones (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Leonard Cohen-London		Being Erica (N) (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		To Be Announced		Nip/Tuck (HDTV)		Murdoch Mysteries (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		American Idol (Live)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Running-Heels	The Dish	News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		Destination Nor'Ouest 2		*L'Odeur de la papaye verte* ★★★ (1993, Drame)				La Vie
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	I Get That a Lot (N)		Avril Lavigne: Live		To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	I Get That a Lot (N)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Life "Initiative 38" (N)		Law & Order "Falling"		News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Lost (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News (N)
	219	346	20 ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Lost (HDTV) (N)		Law & Order "Falling"		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		American Idol (Live)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Mulberry	Nova (HDTV) (N) (DVS)		Jerusalem: Center of the World (HDTV) (N)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 "Life's a Drag"		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Amazing Moments		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		American Greed		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	Hockeycentral	World Sport	UFC Fight Night				Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30 TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Amer. Thunder	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race	Drag Race	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Karaoke Star Junior		Falcon Beach "Vigil"		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery Bag	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Stuck (N)	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out
	570	580	29 MM	disBand	Redemption	T.I.'s Road to Redemption		America's Best Dance Crew		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	PunchMuch
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Extralarge 2				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		All Access	Gimme Sugar	Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	CMT's Greatest "1997"		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Chords
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot	Cock'd Gunns	The Starter Wife (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40 BVO	The Achievers	Landscp.-Muse	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Chop Shop	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	Kimora: Fab	Kardashians	ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Doppelganger"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Doppelganger"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Demetri Martin	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Big City Broker	The Stagers	Unsellable	Hid Potential	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Phantoms* ★★ (1998, Horror) Peter O'Toole, Rose McGowan.				Steve Harvey	Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Menace II Society* ★★★ (1993, Drama) Tyrin Turner.				The Game	The Game	*Menace II Soc.*
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Stormworld (N)	Grand Star	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	Room Raiders	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		The Real World (N)		Real World
	618	524	54 TROP	Vanity Insanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Fresh-Anna	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Iron Chef America		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Opening Soon
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Foot in Grave	Pagan Christ		*The Bible* ★ (1966, Drama)		
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small (N)	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Star Académie:	Destinées "Peau neuve" (SC)		Dommages et intérêts (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium "Sweet Dreams"		Medium "Dead Aim"		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
	300	601	301 M1	*Made of Honor* ★★ (2008, Romance-Comedy)				*Knocked Up* ★★★ (2007, Romance-Comedy), Paul Rudd				*Superbad*
	305	612	306 PIX	(7:15) *Ill Fated* ★★ (2004, Comedy-Drama)				*Bringing Out the Dead* ★★★ (1999, Drama)				*Avenging War.*

critics' corner

G-Spot
Typecast as a sex bomb after appearing in "Red Shoe Diaries," actress Brigitte Bako has fun with that development — and others in her life — in this comedy series, a sort of "Sex and the City" meets "Seinfeld." In season three, starting tonight, her character, Gigi, deals with a kinky convention, the production of a pilot based on her life and, of course, lots of guy issues. 9 PM on SHO

The Last Enemy
It takes place across the pond, but North Americans can find plenty to identify with in the five-part miniseries "The Last Enemy." Set in the near future, it's the story of a British mathematician (Benedict Cumberbatch) who returns from abroad to find his country drastically changed, with national identity cards and aggressive surveillance of individuals. George Orwell flashbacks, anyone? Anamaria Marinca and Robert Carlyle also star. 9 PM on TVO

Damon, Affleck planning new movie

Even after Hollywood success and "ballooning" families, Ben Affleck says his friendship with Matt Damon has not only gotten stronger, with shared vacations, but they're planning another movie together, people.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Britney's worried message

LEGAL Britney Spears has consulted a lawyer to try and get her conservatorship lifted, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Womanizer singer — whose father Jamie and lawyer Andrew Wallet were made co-conservators of her personal and professional affairs following her breakdown last year — reportedly left a worried voicemail for an attorney on Jan. 29.

According to JFXOnline, Britney revealed she was concerned Jamie may stop her seeing her sons Sean Preston, three, and Jayden James, two.

In the message, Britney says: "Hi my name's Britney Spears. I called you earlier. I'm calling again because I just wanted to make sure that during the process of eliminating the conservatorship that my father has threatened me several times, that you know, he'll take my children away.

"I just want to be guaranteed that everything will be fine with the process and that you guys are taking care of everything, that things will stay the same as far as my custodial time. That's it, bye."

It has been claimed the person leaving the message is definitely Spears, with a source telling America's OK! magazine: "It's the real deal. This is what convinced Jamie to go back to court to have the restraining orders reinstated against Sam Lutfi and Adnan Ghalib."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Is Rihanna co-operating?

PEOPLE The Los Angeles County District Attorney denies that Rihanna is no longer co-operating in the Chris Brown case, usmagazine.com reports.

"We deal with her attorney who says she is a co-operating victim," L.A. County D.A. spokesperson Sandi Gibbons tells the website.

According to FoxNews.com, the Umbrella singer "wants the whole thing" to go away and isn't helping the D.A. prepare his case against Brown for allegedly assaulting her Feb. 8 — hours before both were scheduled to attend the Grammys.

Adds her lawyer, Donald Etra: "She will do everything that the law requires her to do ... nothing has changed."

However, even without Rihanna's co-operation, the case will still go forward on the basis of her detailed statement to police hours after the attack and the graphic photos.

Brown — who, like Rihanna, did not attend this weekend's Kids' Choice Awards — is due in court to be arraigned on two felonies April 6.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Berry open to more kids

FAMILY Halle Berry is open to having more kids — but don't expect her to be like octuplets' mom Nadya Suleman, people.com

Berry confirms to Ellen DeGeneres on her show that she wants another child, but says she's not up for double digits. "I hope I don't have like 14 more," quips Berry, who is mom to one-year-old Nahla Ariela.

Still, Berry isn't ruling out that a brother or sister could be in the future for her daughter with model Gabriel Aubry. "My mind says yes," she tells DeGeneres, "but the rest isn't up to me so we'll see."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Short models not a popular choice

FASHION Tyra Banks idea to only accept short models, under five-foot seven, for the next season of America's Next Top Model has not gone down well with other fashion insiders, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Top agent Ellis, who discovered Erin O'Conner, told Vogue that it seemed like a "stupid, stupid idea."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Washington moving

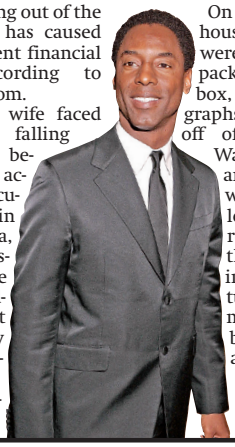
FINANCES Former Grey's Anatomy star Isaiah Washington is moving out of the property that has caused him some recent financial troubles, according to RadarOnline.com.

He and his wife faced eviction after falling $100,000 US behind on rent, according to documents filed in Santa Monica, Calif., on Tuesday. They were told they needed to move out unless they paid the overdue amount.

"He's moving out today," a source told RadarOnline.com.

On Monday, two housekeepers were spotted packing a large box, and photographs were taken off of the walls. Washington and his wife were seen leaving the residence, though Washington returned 40 minutes later before leaving again.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Cyrus says yes to TV, no to movie sequel

CAREER Big-screen Hannah Montana, no. Small-screen Hannah Montana, yes. So sayeth Miley Cyrus, whose Hannah Montana: The Movie hits cineplexes April 10, people.com reports.

And while she's already torpedoed reports that she wants off the Montana treadmill, the pop sensation is adding further fuel to her insistence that her Disney Channel show keep up its pace — even though Disney itself reportedly is mulling over whether it should continue for a fourth season. Cyrus has already signed for a third.

For her part, Cyrus, 16, sounds optimistic about Hannah's future. "We got really lucky with having the material to make one movie," she told the Associated Press on Monday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Willis' ski lodge burned down

PEOPLE Bruce Willis may have to cut his honeymoon short to deal with some devastating property loss. The actor's ski lodge in Fairfield, Idaho, burned to the ground recently, according to the Associated Press. The main lodge building as well as an adjacent rental shop were burned to the ground in the fire, which ignited a week after the Soldier Mountain Ski Resort, co-owned by Willis, closed for the season.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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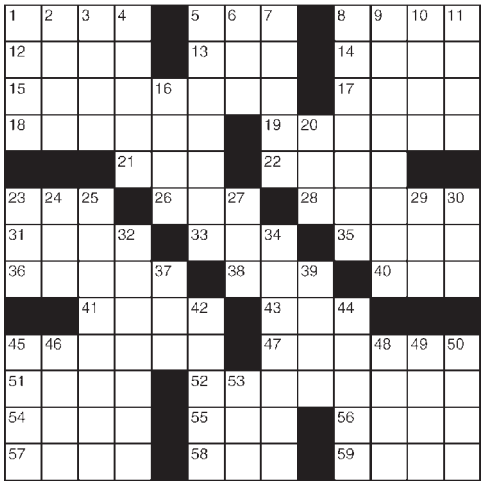

Crossword across

1 Band in Boston?
5 Derek and Didley
8 Always
12 Couple in a gossip column
13 Trench
14 Start over
15 Horrible state
17 Mined-over matter
18 Battled
19 Lengthy list
21 Perch
22 Idle or Clapton
23 Wager
26 Church seat
28 Alkali neutralizers
31 Lone Star State sch.
33 Siesta
35 On
36 Craze
38 Wander about
40 Verily
41 Gospels followup
43 Baby's seat, maybe
45 Record sleeve
47 "20 Questions" category
51 Seed coat
52 Nerve
54 Teensy amount
55 Part of TGIF
56 Smell
57 Coves
58 $5 bill
59 Fourth dimension

Crossword down

1 Chanteuse Edith
2 "Beetle Bailey" dog
3 Andean land
4 Clean Air Act targets
5 "Peter Grimes" composer
6 Chic no more
7 Fashion
8 Blue material?
9 Accuracy
10 Paradise
11 Optimistic
16 Chocolate fragment
20 Playwright Levin
23 Vagrant
24 Greek vowel
25 Stick-to-itiveness
27 Humorist
29 Buck's mate
30 Hot tub
32 Big Mac ingredients
34 Champion for a cause
37 Noshed
39 Carvey or Delany
42 Employees
44 Embroidery loop
45 Doorframe part
46 Met melody
48 Certain skirt
49 Fermi's concern
50 Muse's strings
53 Spoonbender Geller

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

6						7	5	
4				2	1		6	
	1							
			4		3	8		
	2	1	8		6	9	3	
		4	2		7			
							7	
	3		9	8				5
	4	6						8

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

1	9	5	6	2	3	7	8	4
7	6	2	4	8	5	1	9	3
3	8	4	1	7	9	2	6	5
5	3	1	7	4	6	8	2	9
9	2	6	5	3	8	4	7	1
4	7	8	2	9	1	5	3	6
2	5	3	8	6	4	9	1	7
8	4	9	3	1	7	6	5	2
6	1	7	9	5	2	3	4	8

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Citrus-Grilled California Chicken with Melon Sauce

INGREDIENTS:

4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
Salt to taste
1/2 tsp (2 ml) black pepper
1 jalapeno pepper
6 tbsp (90 ml) fresh lime juice, divided
1 garlic clove, minced
2 tsp (10 ml) light soy sauce

SALSA:

1 large cucumber
1 small cantaloupe, cut into 1-in. (2.5-cm) cubes
1/2 basket of cherry tomatoes, halved
2 tbsp (25 ml) thinly sliced fresh basil
6 cups (1.5 l) mesclun leaves, for serving

METHOD:

1. Preheat grill or broiler to medium. Sprinkle chicken on both sides with salt and black pepper. Devein and seed jalapeno pepper, then mince. In pie plate, mix 2 tbsp (25 ml) lime juice, garlic, soy sauce and 1 tsp (5 ml) jalapeno. Add chicken and turn to coat. Marinate at room temperature while preparing salsa.
2. Halve cucumber lengthwise and remove seeds. Place cucumber cut-side down on board and thinly slice. In medium bowl, toss cucumber, cantaloupe, tomatoes, basil and remaining jalapeno and lime juice. Set aside.
3. Discard marinade and lightly coat chicken with non-stick cooking spray. Grill or broil chicken until juices run clear, 5 minutes per side, turning once.
4. Transfer chicken to cutting board and cut diagonally into strips 1/2 in. (1 cm) wide. Toss with cucumber mixture. Divide mesclun among 4 plates and spoon chicken and melon mixture over.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Your good humour lightens the day for others. Using an inadequate service will be pointless. You can teach an old dog new tricks.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Take extra care with traffic conditions. A story may not be properly told. Avoid jumping to conclusions with a buddy.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
There'll be seesaw activity in your relationships. An outsider has the goods on your secret. Speak with tact, even when you're under duress.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Your domestic activity will go off the scale. A cherished venture increases its momentum. A grim situation is created by a wicked schemer.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Your routine will change due to happy moments. Don't ridicule someone's emotions. A kind person will set new standards.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
An irresponsible person takes over a boring task. An encounter with a foreigner will dazzle you. A meddler gets upset over certain preparations.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be diligent about looking into details. Refuse to argue with a whimsical man. A perplexing friend has a vision of the future.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A gracious deed will win over an elder. Someone is hiding important facts. A violent traveller causes a ruckus.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Risk-taking is more important than usual. Cultivate a connection with a joyful person. A truce-maker will be well received.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
There's uncertainty about a change of alliances. Hide your dismay at the loss of a friendship. A sassy female should be ignored.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
An incoherent ally has abandonment issues. A potent daydream reveals the fulfillment of a wish. An older person makes you laugh.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A splendid action will touch your heart. Denial of reality won't lead to a happy ending. Something that you dread must be faced.

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TICO

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Hurl a female deer (1)
2. Attempts to use fishing lures (1)
3. Nanny or billy jacket (1)
4. Viewing a living entity (2)
5. Royal sons' shampoo followers (2)
6. Discombobulate one with faith in (2)
7. Evil pastor (3) [April Fools anagrams!]

ANSWERS
1. WORTH ODE 2. TIRES FILES 3. TOGA TACO 4. GENIES BEGIN
5. PIONEER SIRENS 6. RESTFUL TIRRERS 7. INSISTER INTERNS

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